

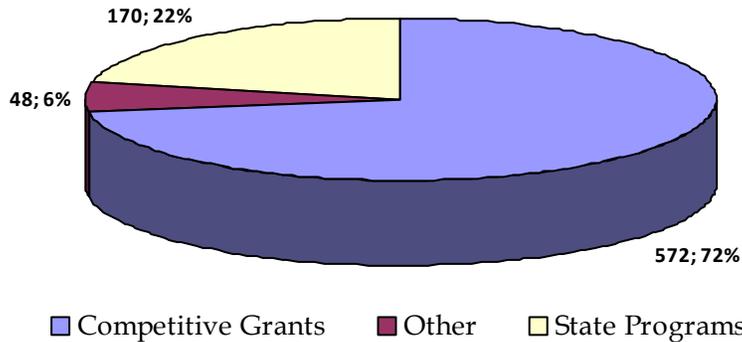


Fiscal Year 2009

Description of Funded Projects

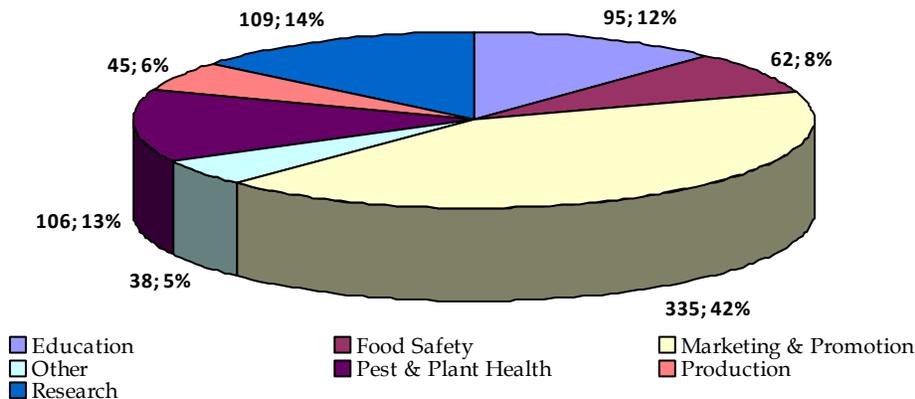
The fifty States, the District of Columbia, and four U.S. Territories were awarded Fiscal Year 2009 funds to perform a total of 790 projects that benefit the specialty crop industry. All the eligible entities with the exception of American Samoa submitted their applications by the established deadline of August 26, 2009. The approved awards are listed alphabetically.

2009 Project Delivery Types



- State Program** The proposal illustrated that the State department of agriculture planned to administer the project and/or a competitive grant program was not conducted.
- Competitive Grants** The proposal demonstrated that a fair and open competition was conducted and the project partner(s) are clearly involved.
- Other** The proposal illustrated that project partners met with the grantee to determine project priorities, but an open competitive grant program was not conducted.

2009 Project Types



Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries

Amount Awarded:

\$442,987.67

Number of Projects:

20

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- Conduct a market analysis to determine a baseline estimate of sales by specialty crops in schools; and generate promotional materials and outreach resources based on the results of the survey for schools
 - Partner with Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network (ASAN) to develop individualized promotional materials, local food directories for three Alabama metropolitan areas, and a general consumer education program through press releases and marketing materials to improve visibility of the state's specialty crops' growers
 - Partner with Mobile Botanical Gardens to promote Gulf Coast-adapted citrus as a premium fruit crop that brings benefit to small-scale growers, the local community, and children by hosting a Citrus Field Day and a Citrus Sampler Gala, featuring a citrus recipe contest
 - Partner with 'Ready for College' to establish a community gardening project using plasticulture technology to improve nutrition and wellness with children, in two after school programs, and their parents along with senior citizens
 - Partner with the SAFE Family Service Center to expand production of Sylacuaga Grows/Community Gardens to provide fresh vegetables for community members
 - Partner with the Sundown Ranch to provide young men and women the opportunity to learn production, processing, marketing and business principals of farm raised produce
 - Partner with Brown's Farm to provide young men and women the opportunity to learn production, processing, marketing and business principals of farming fruit trees and vegetables
 - Partner with the Alabama Green Industry Training Center and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System to increase the consumption of locally grown fruits, vegetables and containerized horticultural crops by establishing or expanding specialty crop gardens at four Fairfield City Schools; establishing or expanding a garden at the Fairfield Recreation Center and School Board for the benefit of senior citizens; teaching specialty crop classes in the Fairfield area and at the Alabama Green Industry Training Center; working with Fairfield City Development staff to develop a small farmers market in the downtown area where local citizens can grow, sell and purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at that location; and developing and printing 2,000 kindergarten through third-grade activity books that focus on nutrition and health, specialty crop growing and farmers markets for distribution to Fairfield and other inner-city schools
 - Partner with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives to recruit students from Greene and Sumter High Schools to work in the Federation's one-acre organic garden, where they will get direct hands-on training on specialty vegetable crop production; and work with the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program to develop Specialty Crop Food and Nutrition workshops targeted at high school students, their families, and members of the community
 - Partner with "Women in Ag" to assist and train female farmers, young beginning ranchers with traditional systems to transition to higher income specialty crops by examining the impact of two organic based production systems for specialty fruits and vegetables for small- scale farmers
 - Partner with Binon Farms to develop a demonstration project of fruit trees and vegetable crops to train small farmers in Chilton Co., Autauga Co. and ultimately the entire Black Belt on how to sustain small farms through diversification
 - Partner with Mr. and Mrs. Shennan Green through the Community Gardening/Community Bonding project to create a plasticulture demonstration for fresh vegetables
 - Partner with Auburn University to implement an evaluation program that would select the best landscape plants for Alabama
 - Partner with Auburn University to increase the competitiveness of vegetable production in Alabama by establishing an insect monitoring program and electronic delivery of information via a network of Integrated Pest Management Communication Resource Kiosks placed at busy pesticide stores
 - Partner with Auburn University to develop MSMA (monosodium methylarsonate) alternative herbicides for sod grass by evaluating currently registered herbicides for crop production usage and developing a replacement manual that will outline weed control options, herbicide effectiveness, turf grass injury, and cost
 - Provide a Food and Drug Administration approved facility in central Alabama to utilize locally grown fruits and vegetables in the preparation of value-added food products

- Partner with the River Road Cooperative to assist small and limited resource producers to transition from traditional commodity crops to specialty crops such as fruits and vegetables
- Partner with the Alabama Satsuma Growers Association to support increased production capacity that will allow the AL Satsuma Growers to increase operational efficiency and profitability by reducing post-harvest loss of fresh Satsumas in storage and handling and maintaining quality for more efficient distribution to large institutional and retail customers
- Partner with the Chattahoochee Trading Company, Inc. to investigate optimal ways to establish a processed blueberry market in Alabama, enhancing the competitiveness of this specialty crop through year round markets, new products and an entirely new customer base for food manufacturers
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Alaska Division of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$176,756.84	Number of Projects:	7
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- Organize and facilitate a weeklong event that highlights Alaska Grown specialty crops and encourages an increase in the purchase of Alaskan grown produce
- Partner with the Alaska Peony Growers Association to research the results of leaf analysis in order to indicate the causes that adversely affect peony productivity in Alaska as well as develop a web based system to establish a portal to sell peonies to the lower forty-eight states
- Produce, update, and disseminate a “Food & Farm Products Directory” through various technologies in order to increase the visibility of Alaska grown specialty crops and provide matching funds for nonspecialty crop commodities
- Create and distribute a new Alaska Grown twist tie for use on leaf lettuces and other specialty crops
- Award scholarships to teachers for the implementation of agriculture education curricula intended to expand the awareness and appreciation for the Alaska specialty crop industries
- Award grants to specialty crop producers for the purpose of extending the growing season and increasing crop productivity where the results will be presented by the awardees in publicly held presentations
- Hire a specialty crop project assistant to increase outreach activities within the Alaska specialty crop industries, as well as add to the specialty crop educational efforts with the general public, specialty crop associations, and individual producers

Arizona Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$1,113,922.37	Number of Projects:	21
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- Partner with the Yuma County Cooperative Extension to educate youth about the importance of food safety, especially as it relates to the Arizona Leafy Green Marketing Agreement, and their role in the food chain
- Partner with the Southwest Ag Summit and the Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association to facilitate an interactive forum between educators, specialists, farmers, and students of the southwest desert specialty crop industry
- Partner with the Arizona Nursery Association to promote and encourage the production, sale, and use of regionally adapted landscape plants and trees grown in Arizona
- Increase awareness of the availability of Arizona Grant specialty crops by updating and printing 20,000 copies of the Arizona Specialty Crop Guide and distributing them to consumers through county libraries, cooperative extensions, and agricultural events
- Partner with the Western Growers Foundation to provide for the establishment of school gardens, encourage students to develop gardening and life skills, and improve attitudes toward the consumption of fruits and vegetables
- Partner with the University of Arizona to develop and implement an online agricultural literacy course in order to allow kindergarten through twelfth grade classroom teacher to increase their knowledge about Arizona’s specialty crop industry while meeting Arizona’s Academic Standards in mathematics, language arts, and science which will include nutrition.
- Partner with the University of Arizona to evaluate a number of phosphorus fertilization practices for cool season vegetables that reduce fertilizer costs to growers without compromising production
- Partner with the University of Arizona to continue operations of lysimeters to generate evapotranspiration data for other vegetables in addition to the original research that included iceberg lettuce

- Partner with the University of Arizona to collect date tree, soil, and fertilization practices data in order to correlate these factors to differential yielding blocks of ‘Medjool’ dates
- Partner with the University of Arizona – Arizona Pest Management Center, to build a database and information infrastructure that will support the pesticide and pest management information needs of the Arizona specialty crop industry
- Partner with the USDA, Agriculture Research Service to use conventional and molecular breeding methods to develop landmark cultivars and breeding lines with resistance to pre-mature bolting, tipburn, and the diseases powdery mildew, big vein, and Fusarium wilt
- Partner with the University of Arizona and the Yuma Agricultural Center to continue to develop effective biocontrol strategies against lettuce drop disease through the examination of environmental factors that impact survival of *C. minitans* conidia in soil, as well as optimize application methods for Contans to increase survival of lettuce in the field and insure effective control of both *Sclerotinia* spp
- Partner with the University of Arizona to explore the mechanisms of the induced resistance of Pepino mosaic virus in tomatoes and to develop novel immunization approaches to induce the resistance
- Partner with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension to install a new Extension educator in order to assist the Vegetable Integrated Pest Management (IPM) team in the production of education materials, workshops, meetings, and grower demonstrations to: increase awareness and technical knowledge of IPM among target audiences, increase use of IPM tactics and reduce pest levels, and reliance on routine pesticide use among adopting growers
- Partner with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension to identify Beet curly top virus, determine its distribution across Arizona, determine disease incidence, and distribute the results of this project to producers in Arizona
- Partner with the University of Arizona and the Yuma Agricultural Center to generate knowledge that will facilitate incorporation of effective cultural disease management tactics with judicious use of fungicide inputs to create a truly integrated system for effective management of *P. capsici* induced losses in Arizona chile pepper fields
- Partner with the University of Arizona to develop a knowledge-based information system that will enable ‘best integrated practices’ for management of whiteflies and whitefly-transmitted plant viruses of melons, mixed melons, and watermelons in south-central Arizona
- Partner with the University of Arizona and the Yuma Agricultural Center to conduct studies that specifically measure the residual uptake and persistence of cloranthraniliprole following planting by evaluating insect efficacy and concurrently measuring cloranthraniliprole concentrations in plant tissue in order to provide growers with a sustainable approach for controlling worms in desert vegetables
- Partner with the Yuma County Extension Office to evaluate current non-commercial products available to nurseries and landscapers for whitefly management and determine the overall range of their effectiveness and persistence
- Partner with the University of Arizona to develop two of the key components of an automated lettuce thinner, integrating these components into a prototype automated thinner, and identifying a company to manufacture the device
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Arkansas Agriculture Department

Amount Awarded:

\$220,060.79

Number of Projects:

9

- Partner with the University of Arkansas – Fayetteville to organize workshops throughout Arkansas, to increase the knowledge and awareness of microbial food safety of specialty crop producers that market their products directly to consumers
- Promote Arkansas produce growers with a booth and display at the 2010 and 2011 Produce Marketing Association Fresh Summit Shows
- Partner with the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance to increase access of underserved populations to fresh fruits and vegetables by increasing partnerships with specialty crop farmers, gleaning a minimum of one million pounds of fresh produce for distribution through local food pantries and shelters, and by informing and educating Arkansans about the nutritional value, storage and preparation of the produce they receive
- Increase sales of Arkansas wines and visits to Arkansas wineries by creating and disseminating a promotional wine bottle carrier for use at the state's wineries

- Partner with the University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture-Extension Office to expand local citizen’s knowledge about specialty produce and the proper preparation involved by establishing a booth and demonstrations at the Conway Farmers' Market, creating promotional materials and providing educational experiences for the general public
- Partner with the National Agricultural Law Center and the University of Arkansas to conduct an educational training and develop informational guides to specialty crop producers concerning the legal opportunities and challenges concerning contract laws, food safety, food labeling, labor, business organizations, and application of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act
- Partner with the National Agricultural Law Center at the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture to provide potential edamame producers in Arkansas with the information needed to understand the barriers and opportunities associated with the emerging edamame industry by interviewing stakeholders in the edamame industry, organizing at least one in-person stakeholder meeting and disseminating the results to all stakeholders through a web presence, extension materials, and a stakeholder-friendly publication
- Partner with the Arkansas Pecan Growers Association to gather information about current practices while equipping growers and processors to make more effective pest management and farm management decisions
- Partner with the University of Arkansas – Fayetteville to provide long-term economical benefits for specialty crop producers through the biological control of the Japanese beetle population by introduction into Arkansas of *Ovavesicula popilliae* Andreadis, a microsporidian pathogen of Japanese beetle grubs

California Department of Food and Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$16,315,325.65	Number of Projects:	60
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- Partner with Western Growers to address concerns about the impact practices to address potential contamination of products from animal intrusion in commodity specific food safety guidelines for leafy greens on wildlife habitat and water quality
- Partner with the Center for Produce Safety to evaluate current tomato post-harvest handling practices on *Salmonella* contamination and infiltration and provide data for developing science-based guidelines to reduce food safety risks
- Partner with the Center for Produce Safety to test the hypothesis that it should be possible to identify crop cultivars that are less susceptible to contamination with *Salmonella* and discover an additive effect of the genotype and maturity in affecting susceptibility of the product to contamination with *Salmonella*
- Partner with the Center for Produce Safety to compare three spinach varieties grown under slow- and fast-growth conditions for physiological differences that may contribute to leaf structure and stability (waxy layer, plasmalemma and cell wall thickness, number of chloroplasts, etc.) and susceptibility to *E. coli* O157:H7 colonization
- Partner with the Center for Produce Safety to test wildlife species for the human pathogenic strain of bacteria, *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella* in Monterey, San Benito and San Luis Obispo Counties to properly manage wildlife and to protect human health
- Partner with the University of California Cooperative Extension - Monterey County to develop field-generated information on the survival of *E. coli* under actual production environments for coastal California leafy greens
- Partner with University of California - Davis, Food Science and Technology to identify points during post-harvest handling of pistachios where *Salmonella* may be reduced, controlled or amplified
- Partner with the University of California - Davis, Department. Of Plant Sciences to develop a baseline of data assessing the reliability of chlorine dioxide injection into tomato packing house water systems
- Partner with the Center for Produce Safety in collaboration with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement (LGMA) Advisory Board to obtain confidential audit data for analysis; the statistical analysis of the data for trends and compliance issues; the preparation of training tools and training sessions for growers, and recommendations to LGMA for any changes in best practices and/or the audit document
- Increase the food safety knowledge of California’s small specialty crop farmers through the research, development, evaluation, and production educational materials tailored to meet their unique needs
- Provide timely, accurate, and relevant results to enforcement agencies through the purchase of a Gas Chromatograph-Tandem Mass Spectrometer instrument with a workstation, a sample mixer, a centrifuge, a balance, and two food processors to screen over 100 pesticides on specialty crops daily

- Partner with Ag Innovations Network (AIN) to provide support to the existing Food System Alliances (FSAs) in Yolo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties and will launch 3 new FSAs to secure the long-term viability of specialty crop agriculture by communicating the importance of agriculture to the broader community, crafting on-the-ground solutions to local issues, building markets, ensuring supportive local policy, and reducing the conflict at the ag/urban border
- Partner with Western Growers to communicate the value of the specialty crop industry to the state of California and reconnect consumers to the source of their food supply
- Partner with Ag Innovations Network to create a three-year effort to replicate the success of the California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment in the arena of water use efficiency for specialty crop growers
- Partner with Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA) to generate economic models that link beginning and limited-resource farmers with diverse markets serving low-income people in the Salinas Valley in order to expand consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables through public education programs, farm-direct sales whenever possible, and a focus on culturally appropriate specialty crops that can be grown locally and marketed in ways that expand demand for such crops. To ensure that the funds received from the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program solely benefit specialty crop producers, ALBA will require all producers involved in the project to sign a standardized certification form that includes the type of specialty crop produced, exclusively listing qualified specialty crops on all campaign promotion materials and using specialty crop products for all supplies, and ensure all EBT tokens and resulting funds are used only for eligible specialty crops
- Partner with the California Grape & Tree Fruit League to upgrade and expand its current on-line trade and regulatory database covering global trade regulations for peaches, plums, nectarines, and apricots
- Partner with the California Canning Peach Association to conduct market research in India to determine India's potential as a new export market for California canned peach products
- Partner with Cal Poly Corporation to address how changes in the agricultural transportation technology, infrastructure, and cost impact the regional and international competitiveness of California specialty crop industries
- Partner with the Buy California Marketing Agreement to carry out marketing and public relations activities in Japan to increase exports of California specialty crops to this market
- Partner with the Monterey County Vintners and Growers Association to increase growers' long-term sales and competitiveness by creating market awareness and promoting the unique characteristics of each American Viticultural Area
- Partner with the Wine Institute to maintain and grow market share for vintners and growers by enhancing marketing skills and consumer awareness of the state's wine regions
- Partner with Sunsweet Growers, Inc. to conduct a regional TV advertising campaign that focuses on younger, health conscious women aged 35+ by raising awareness of the health benefits of this prune juice and the improved taste appeal of newer prune juice products
- Partner with the University of California - Davis to investigate the pattern of retail, wholesale and farm price movements for California specialty crops
- Partner with the Buy California Marketing Agreement to conduct a 'California Grown' umbrella marketing effort that will feature growers who are the heart and soul of the California specialty crop industry
- Partner with the Western Pistachio Association to support an industry re-building effort in light of the recent, nationwide voluntary recall of pistachios due to potential Salmonella contamination intended to unify the pistachio community and work collaboratively with key stakeholders and food safety experts toward the goal of restoring the public's confidence in pistachios
- Partner with the University of California - Merced to act on a recommendation from the San Francisco (SF) Urban Rural Roundtable's work to conduct Agricultural Trade Missions solely to specialty crop farms such that connections/relationships are established and distribution infrastructure is developed between growers and buyers of specialty crop products, but also develop an effective food shed model for specialty crop producers that includes a refined distribution system to bring regionally grown product to SF residents.
- Partner with Lake County Health Services to formalize a food distribution system focused solely on purchase of local specialty crops to include: a food summit; marketing/education; an expanded Farm - School and Farm-Institution program; and coordination to connect these and other "eat local" efforts within a food delivery system that works in tandem to optimize consumer nutrition and grower market opportunities

- Partner with the Ecology Center to work directly with residents, farmers, and lawmakers to improve nutrition by increasing consumption of California specialty crops through the Ecology Center's Nutrition, Food, and Farming Programs: the Berkeley Farmers' Markets; the EBT Program; the Berkeley Food Policy Council, to connect local agriculture with the community through replicable food policies and programs; and Farm Fresh Choice to promote specialty crop health benefits to low-income youth and families with nutrition/disease-prevention education, farm stands, tastings, and culturally relevant cooking classes. To ensure that the funds received from the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program solely benefit specialty crop producers, the Ecology Center will pro-rate all costs associated with activities charged to the project to reflect the applicable percentage of California's specialty crop production
- Partner with the University of California - Davis to assist smaller-scale ethnic producers with marketing fresh and culturally-appropriate produce to low-income communities in Alameda, Santa Clara, Tulare, and Riverside Counties
- Partner with the Trust for Conservation Innovation to support efforts in the six foodsheds of San Diego, Los Angeles, Fresno, Monterey, Oakland and San Francisco to direct market healthy, sustainably grown local fresh fruits and vegetables to nutritionally vulnerable county citizens promoting SNAP and WIC Voucher Links with Farmers Markets. To ensure that the funds received from the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program solely benefit specialty crop producers, in-kind funds will provide a match proportional to the percentage of California's agricultural production that is non-specialty crop and ensure that all projects materials and cooking demonstrations focus on eligible specialty crops
- Partner with the California Department of Education to provide the Child and Adult Care Food Program an opportunity to influence young children's eating habits by promoting Food for Thought in preschool to increase preschoolers' acceptance of fresh fruits and vegetables
- Partner with the Central Coast Vineyard Team to continue its sustainable agricultural outreach programs to growers and farm workers and build linkages between the sustainable agriculture producers and consumers
- Partner with the Buy California Marketing Agreement to conduct a marketing and public relations campaign in China, Japan, and South Korea to promote sales of California specialty crops in these markets. All funding for non-specialty crops activities will be contributed by cash contribution from participating organizations
- Partner with the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts to conduct a cooperative educational project aimed at increasing the adoption of conservation tillage and cover cropping practices by 10% in California's Central Valley (CV) vegetable systems to: increase the profitability of CV vegetable crop systems; reduce green house gas emissions and water quality impacts; and enable California vegetable farmers to more readily access trading markets
- Partner with the Center for International Trade Development to address the following identified needs of California's specialty crop industries through customized training and counseling: small business export training, counseling and assistance for specialty crop producers; greater export readiness and increased trade awareness; breaking down barriers facing future export markets and the high cost of developing these markets; and the inability to locate buyers, distributors and importers. Through an application and screening process, only program applicants that have an eligible specialty crop product will be allowed into the comprehensive training program
- Partner with Western Growers Foundation to provide 100 Head Start sites with the resources and funding to create a school garden
- Partner with U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service to identify how vineyard management practices affect greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, carbon stocks, and GHG footprints, and identify tradeoffs for ecosystem functions such as nitrate leaching and weed control
- Partner with the University of California - Davis to test and develop new production systems that will couple conservation tillage with low pressure overhead irrigation for vegetables to resolve current problems associated with dust and runoff, reduce costs and facilitate more efficient water application and use
- Partner with the University of California - Davis to evaluate how tomato growers can increase soil profile and groundwater recharge through winter cover crop management, optimize irrigation practices to reduce environmental costs and increase grower incomes
- Partner with the University of California - Merced to develop a sustainable practices program strategic plan and template for specialty crop organizations that can then be customized to meet each commodity group's specific needs

- Partner with the Pear Pest Management Research Fund to develop a sustainable practice benchmark for California pears by: compiling and assessing previous survey results on how to address sustainability for the California pear industry; providing reports comparing each grower's sustainability performance to the industry average including strengths and weaknesses; revising survey questions (as needed for subsequent surveys) addressing sustainability under general categories including pest, nutrient and soil, ecosystem, water, and energy management and employer practices; and conducting industry and consumer education/outreach
- Partner with SureHarvest to increase almond grower water and nutrient resource use efficiency through an industry-wide integrated environmental performance outreach, data capture, benchmarking, and continuous improvement initiative
- Partner with the University of California - Davis to develop a system for precision application of water and fertilizer in container nurseries
- Partner with the University of California - Davis to focus on alternate furrow irrigation via partial root drying to improve the low water use efficiency of tomatoes, reduce runoff, nitrate leaching, greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, and costs; and facilitate outreach with Geographic Information System tools that target areas with greatest potential benefits
- Partner with the University of California - Davis to validate a new method to derive crop chilling and heat requirements and use the method to provide a phenology-based time scale for crop management. This time scale will be used to: predict the impact of climate change on the long term viability of almond, pistachio and walnuts in California; to enhance the efficiency of production and use of resources (water, labor, nutrients, etc); and provide direction for breeding and research programs
- Partner with the California Pear Advisory Board in collaboration with researchers at the University of California - Davis to study the effects of temperature and ethylene exposure on fresh Bartlett pears in conjunction with 1-methyl-cyclopropane (1-MCP) to determine an appropriate balance between storage and ripening
- Partner with the USDA, Agricultural Research Service to develop resources for the control of Verticillium wilt on lettuce in California, caused by the fungus Verticillium dahlia and publicize the results in technical/trade journals and national meetings
- Partner with the USDA, Agricultural Research Service to develop almond, stone fruit, and walnut rootstocks with resistance to the targeted soilborne pathogens, Agrobacterium tumefaciens, Phytophthora spp, phytoparasitic nematodes and Armillaria spp to reduce yield loss while maximizing yields per unit input over the life of the orchard
- Partner with the University of California - Davis to address sustainability of grape production through reducing inputs by using weather data to guide grape pest management through a statewide applied research, demonstration and implementation project for raisin, table and wine grapes
- Partner with the University of California - Riverside to import and evaluate species of egg parasitoids for efficacy in reducing densities of Diaprepes root weevil, determine methods of storing large numbers of Diaprepes eggs for use in mass rearing of the parasitoids, and incorporate the parasitoids into management programs in citrus and urban landscapes with extension to avocados and ornamental nurseries
- Partner with the University of California - Riverside to develop an effective management program to suppress vine mealybug populations and help prevent further expansion while providing sustainable control for wine, table and raisin grapes
- Support the acquisition of a Variable-Pressure Scanning Electron Microscope (VP-SEM) to allow faster identification of pest insects, pathogens, nematodes, weeds and seeds solely to benefit eligible specialty crops
- Assess the control methods currently available and develop a comprehensive integrated pest management program for the control of voles in artichokes
- Support the host specificity testing of exotic parasitoids for the biocontrol of Asian citrus psyllid in California
- Partner with the University of California - Davis to investigate biorational insecticides, cultural, and biological approaches to mitigate cotton aphid populations to slow the spread of citrus tristeza virus in San Joaquin Valley pomegranates
- Partner with the University of California - Davis to investigate alternative management methods to control arthropod pests of mint to improve sustainability and protect water
- Deploy and monitor pheromone traps in the spring of 2010 in the grape growing regions of southern California
- Improve the Plant Pest Diagnostics Center's diagnostic capability, speed, and capacity through the acquisition of necessary diagnostic equipment, which addresses critical federal and state regulatory enforcement needs as well as the needs of the specialty crop producers

- Partner with Project Aphis m (PAm) to improve pollination services for California's specialty crops by developing and implementing an outreach program of sustainable Best Management Practices for commercially-managed honey bees
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Colorado Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$629,443.00

Number of Projects:

17

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- Partner with Colorado State University to develop an online Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) training program and implement numerous webinars for Colorado produce growers and handlers
 - Partner with Real Food Colorado to provide workshops focusing on the implementation and development of on-farm food safety plans. These workshops, designed to assist more small to mid-sized produce growers in Colorado will be held in three key produce regions: Weld County, Western Slope and Pueblo County
 - Partner with the Center for Systems Integration (CSI) to develop phase 1 of a model for a cohesive statewide Farm to School (FTS) program in Colorado where schools purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables
 - Partner with the Colorado Certified Potato Growers Association to expand promotional efforts aimed at developing and expanding sales of both existing and new cultivars to potato growers throughout the United States
 - Partner with the American Culinary Federation/Colorado Chefs Association to educate Colorado culinarians of the wide array and great taste of locally grown fruits and vegetables through educational programs, product demonstrations, competitions and hands-on exercises involving produce grown in Colorado
 - Implement a television and online advertising campaign to run during the 2010 harvest season that will serve to build greater consumer awareness of the fruits and vegetables grown in Colorado, as well as to help support the sales of these products by producers, restaurants and retailers
 - Increase awareness of Colorado as a reliable supplier of fruits and vegetables, as well as assist participating companies and growers to develop and expand sales by establishing a Colorado Pavilion at the Produce Marketing Association's (PMA) 2010 Fresh Summit Expo
 - Partner with the Colorado Farmers' Market Association (CFMA) to provide a keynote speaker that will focus on specialty crops and how to build stronger ties to specialty crop producers at the CFMA annual meeting; provide 75% reimbursement and 25% applicant cash and in-kind contribution for mileage costs for members to attend the CFMA annual meeting based on an estimate that 25 percent of items sold at farmers' markets consist of non-specialty crops; and provide mini-grants for promotional support for Colorado's farmers' market operators to be made available to CFMA members solely to enhance the promotion of Colorado fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops
 - Partner with the Colorado Onion Association to develop new exhibit displays and participate in the Colorado Pavilion at the Produce Marketing Association's 2010 Fresh Summit Expo
 - Partner with the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee to identify potato cultivars unique to Colorado that possess attributes beneficial to improved health and bring those potatoes to market as "branded" potatoes
 - Partner with the Rocky Mountain Sod Growers Association to develop an online outreach program to educate consumers about the benefits of sod and how the use of sod can serve to conserve water resources
 - Partner with the Center for Systems Integration (CSI) to develop phase 3 of a model for a cohesive statewide Farm to School (FTS) program in Colorado where schools purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables
 - Partner with the Colorado Foundation for Agriculture to provide a new Colorado Reader, focusing on vegetables, that will provide elementary school teachers with resources to help students learn about the vegetables grown in Colorado, when they are available, and the importance of vegetables to a healthy diet
 - Partner with the Colorado Dry Bean Administrative Committee and Colorado State University to assess the potential of alternative classes of dry beans in Colorado, dry bean production systems and seek to identify the optimal level of irrigation and the most efficient water delivery system on the various classes
 - Partner with Colorado State University (CSU) to provide continued support for a Specialty Crops Coordinator, as part of CSU's broader Specialty Crops Program, to provide small acreage, socially disadvantaged and beginning specialty crop producers benefit from cultivar and varietal research conducted by CSU, as well as access to technical support and grant funds for on-farm research and demonstration marketing projects

- Partner with the Yuma Conservation District to conduct research in Eastern Colorado production systems to determine the potential for production of high-value vegetable, floral and nursery crops that could potentially reduce water needs
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Connecticut Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$320,502.74

Number of Projects:

10

- Work with USDA Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training requirements and establish a uniform food-safety GAP program in Connecticut by training a Connecticut Department of Agriculture employee to become a licensed authority to conduct USDA GAP audits throughout Connecticut
- Conduct a needs assessment conference, web site, training programs and written informational materials to enable Connecticut farmers to prepare for Good Agricultural Practices audits and/or meet increased consumer demand for evidence of safe food handling when growing, harvesting and handling fresh fruits and vegetables
- Implement a fifty percent cost-share reimbursement program up to \$500 to become USDA Good Agricultural Practices certified
- Partner with the University of Connecticut to: develop a budget generator suitable to analyze the expected profitability of multiyear specialty crops; estimate cost and profitability of grape production for winemaking for representative farms under alternative technological assumptions; examine the potential market for locally produced grapes as an input to Connecticut wine producers; and implement outreach programs to disseminate information concerning the expected profitability and prospects of expanded grape production
- Partner with the Connecticut Nursery & Landscape Association (CNLA) to increase sales of CT Grown ornamental plants by focusing consumers' attention on 36 specific plants, one each month, over a three-year period
- Host the 50th Anniversary of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association, Inc. to provide current education information to Christmas Tree growers to help them increase their sales
- Partner with the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association (CGGA) to increase sales of CT Grown ornamental plants by focusing consumers' attention on 36 specific plants, one each month, over a three-year period
- Partner with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to: develop greenhouse environment and fertilizer protocols to maintain high nutritional values of vegetable crops grown in various seasons of the year; determine the nutritional value of locally grown salad greens and compare these values to those of the same crops available in supermarkets that were produced in distant regions; and disseminate this information to the agricultural and farming community and the public
- Partner with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to use biochar and earthworms in experimental field plots to demonstrate the value of these treatments in establishing asparagus fields
- Perform pre-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

University of the District of Columbia, College of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$162,240.00

Number of Projects:

4

- Partner with Groundwork Anacostia River to educate gardeners on how to convert conventional grass based lawns into environmentally friendly, flowering and edible landscapes
- Partner with the Neighborhood Farm Initiative to create a replicable template to strengthen the linkage between community gardening, food preparation, and nutritional outreach, resulting in a 'field to fork' network
- Partner with the Friends of the National Arboretum's Washington Youth Garden to increase organic gardening, increase the use of good gardening and handling practices, increase child and adult consumption of specialty crops and contribute to crop sustainability by enabling and encouraging socially disadvantaged, beginning gardeners to grow specialty crops in schoolyard gardens
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Delaware Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$226,495.45

Number of Projects:

9

- Partner with the University of Delaware in cooperation with the Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association of Delaware to develop a produce food safety training program for Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices to include training for direct marketers, a pilot traceability project, and applied research on reducing potential pathogen loads in surface water
- Partner with the Delaware Christmas Tree Growers' Association to improve the practices of growing Christmas trees; to promote the marketing of Christmas trees and related products; to educate members on best growing practices and industry trends; and to educate the general public on the environmental and societal benefits of growing Christmas trees
- Partner with the Bethany Beach and Fenwick Island Farmers' Markets to promote the markets through local print, video, and web media. To ensure that the funds received from the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program solely benefit specialty crop producers, the Bethany Beach Farmers' Market and the Fenwick Island Farmers' Market will equally contribute matching funds to cover the three out of 21 vendors who are not specialty crop producers
- Partner with the Mar Del Watermelon Growers Association to promote the Mar-Delicious brand to local area food stores
- Partner with the University of Delaware and coordinate with the East Coast Garden Center to develop a fourth publication in the Plants for a Livable Delaware series to address ecosystem services provided by native plant landscaping and develop procedures for the production of native plants that fit into current production practices
- Partner with the University of Delaware to develop guidelines to improve the management of drip irrigation systems and methods for vegetable growers to use soil moisture sensors to maximize profit
- Partner with Delaware State University to develop genomic resources and approaches for improving characteristics of lima beans
- Partner with the University of Delaware to evaluate and develop new watermelon varieties for pest resistance and disease management from Fusarium Wilt
- Partner with the University of Delaware to develop and disseminate alternative weed management procedures for lima bean and snap bean production in Delaware, options that reduce the reliance of ALS inhibiting herbicides

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Amount Awarded:

\$4,100,603.76

Number of Projects:

22

- Partner with Plant Real Florida to develop a unique, ecosystem-based online native plant locator and statewide media campaign
- Partner with Florida A&M University, College of Engineering, Science, Technology and Agriculture to conduct on-station and on-farm demonstrations to evaluate production capabilities for small-scale, specialty crop producers, including variety selection, production and harvesting practices, production scheduling, irrigation and water management, post-harvest handling and value-added processing
- Partner with University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agriculture Extension and Florida A&M University, College of Agriculture to conduct an educational outreach program to help small farm specialty crop producers to stay on their land and keep the land in production
- Partner with the Florida Nursery Growers & Landscape Association to conduct a consumer relations campaign; conduct an economic impact study and study of marketing trends and buying patterns; provide financial assistance to schools to implement TeachHort.com; and deliver training in production, marketing and financial risk
- Partner with the Florida Tomato Committee to explore opportunities that will reverse sales erosion of Florida tomatoes with existing retail customers while identifying opportunities to expand share in new markets with new retail accounts
- Partner with the New North Florida Cooperative Association to increase awareness of Farm-to-School in Florida and facilitate incorporation of specialty crop products in school meal programs
- Partner with the University of Florida-Institute of Food and Agriculture Science Extension to support the 2010 Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference to provide topics specifically for specialty crop growers based on producer feedback

- Partner with the Florida Watermelon Association to inform the general public of the health benefits of eating watermelon, and to highlight the economic benefits of supporting local farm family agriculture
- Partner with Florida Agriculture in the Classroom to develop a “Gardening for Grades Resource Guide” that educates teachers and students in kindergarten through 12th grade about Florida specialty fruit, vegetables and horticulture crops by showing them how to cultivate these commodities in the classroom and schoolyard
- Partner with the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation to create a training program that focuses on legal compliance and work place safety for specialty crop farm labor contractors and crew leaders who directly supervise farm workers
- Increase awareness and availability of Florida specialty crops by demonstrating healthy ways to prepare better lunches for school and healthier snacks for kids using fresh fruit and vegetables by exhibiting at the Children's Expo in Orlando, organizing health and nutrition workshops, and providing hands-on cooking demonstrations using only specialty crops
- Partner with the Florida Blueberry Association to develop integrated pest management strategies for four major blueberry pests in Florida: flower thrips (*Frankliniella* spp.), Chilli thrips (*Scirtothrips dorsalis* Hood), blueberry gall midge (aka cranberry tipworm *Dasineura oxycoccana* Johnson), and flea beetles
- Partner with the Gulf Citrus Growers Association to screen compounds that are reputed to promote Systemic Acquired Resistance (SAR) to greening and canker affecting commercial citrus crops in Florida
- Partner with the University of Florida – Citrus & Education Center to determine profitability of aggressive HLB-infected tree removal versus enhanced grove care to sustain production; evaluate performance of psyllid repellent on psyllid population and HLB incidence; evaluate an advanced production method for replanting in HLB-endemic groves; and determine the effect of psyllid spray ‘priority’ timing on psyllid population, yield, HLB incidence and production cost
- Partner with USDA, Fort Pierce, Florida, Horticulture Research Lab to test/develop mobilizing agents that could work in bark applications (allowing economical use of compounds) or in irrigation (an economical form of application) to reduce greening (HLB) in Citrus
- Partner with USDA, Fort Pierce, Florida, Horticulture Research Lab to: 1) develop standardized protocols for screening and eliminating Citrus huanglongbing (HLB) bacteria from nursery stock using highly sensitive detection technology, and effective Las-eradicator compounds; 2) verify if *Murraya paniculata* is a preferred reservoir of HLB pathogens, and test its potential as an attractant trap plant for HLB control; and 3) implement chemical control of citrus HLB by developing cost-effective chemical compounds and application technology
- Partner with the Florida Lettuce Advisory Committee to determine nutrient requirements for the changing muck soils of the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), identify preventative measures and develop management practices that minimize infestation and damage by birds, amphibians, insects, and pathogens in leafy greens
- Partner with USDA, Fort Pierce, Florida Horticulture Research Lab to perfect a versatile and economical device for delivery of semiochemicals in specialty crops and develop a mating disruption application using the device that will provide effective and season-long control of the citrus leafminer
- Partner with the University of Florida's Tropical Research & Education Center and the Avocado Industry Laurel Wilt SubCommittee to investigate the feasibility and xylem wood residue levels of utilizing two micro-injection systems (i.e., Quik-Jet, Arborjet and Wedgle Direct-Inject, Omaha, NE) and one low volume (IV-bag infusion) system for Tilt applications into avocado trees
- Partner with the University of Florida's Tropical Research & Education Center and the Avocado Industry Laurel Wilt Subcommittee to investigate the rates and application methods (drench, bark directed application and trunkinjection) of Tilt (propiconazole) with the residue levels of propiconazole in the wood xylem tissue and fruit pulp from treated commercial avocado trees
- Partner with the University of Florida's Tropical Research & Education Center and the Avocado Industry Laurel Wilt Subcommittee to create an effective strategy for postponing or preventing infection of avocado trees in areas where Redbay Ambrosia Beetle (RAB) is endemic or newly populating by investigating three to four adjuvants at different rates in combination with three insecticides show to control RAB
- Partner with the University of Florida's Tropical Research & Education Center and the Avocado Industry Laurel Wilt Subcommittee to improve early detection and elimination of laurel wilt (LW) infested avocado trees by surveying the entire avocado acreage in Miami-Dade County for LW-suspect avocado trees and then verify their LW status through molecular testing and take remedial action if necessary

Georgia Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$1,017,362.93

Number of Projects:

22

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- Enhance the Georgia Grown website by creating a webpage to solely promote specialty crop producers, products, and markets; create promotional materials to increase consumer awareness of specialty crops and the Georgia Grown logo; and promote the Georgia Grown Agriculture Food Show focusing on specialty crops
 - Partner with Georgia Organics to develop an online hub for sustainable agriculture in Georgia focused on specialty crops, produce and distribute a Local Food Guide featuring organic fruits and vegetables, provide speakers and educational sessions at the Annual Georgia Organics conference focused on specialty crops
 - Partner with the Georgia Watermelon Association, Inc. to provide information to the general public on the best methods to employ when purchasing a watermelon, and provide information on the continued health benefits of including watermelons in the diet
 - Partner with the Wine Growers Association of Georgia to develop awareness of Georgia grown wines throughout Georgia and neighboring states by conducting a promotional campaign using different outreach methods
 - Partner with Emory University to provide educational produce gardens; expand educational impact through new lesson materials and classes that focus on sustainable, specialty crop local food; conduct new events at Emory's farmers market to highlight specific specialty crops; and promote the annual Sustainable Food Fair that promotes specialty crops. Emory University will provide matching funds to cover non-specialty crops that are planted or might share in the publicity of the activities
 - Partner with the Georgia Pecan Commodity Commission to educate the public that pecans are higher in antioxidants by strategically placing billboards throughout the state
 - Partner with the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Peaches to continue a media marketing program to build market share of GA grown peaches in the metro Atlanta retail market
 - Partner with the Vidalia Onion Committee to create the Vidalia onion story at the Vidalia Onion Museum and upgrade the existing website
 - Partner with the Georgia Pecan Growers Association to promote the consumption and visibility of Georgia pecans by designing promotional materials; creating, designing, and selecting locations for promotional billboards; educating and raising awareness of the health benefits and potential of the pecan at international trade shows; and creating, designing, publishing, and promoting an informational and interactive website
 - Partner with the Georgia Christmas Tree Association to familiarize the public with Christmas trees grown locally in Georgia by conducting a marketing campaign to involve erecting billboards along Georgia interstates in strategic locations throughout the state
 - Partner with Georgia Public Broadcasting to promote and increase awareness of specialty crops through the Farm to Table show highlighting the living history and heritage of locally Georgia grown fruits and vegetables
 - Partner with the Georgia Beekeepers Association to foster awareness of honeybee related issues and promote conservation of honeybees and honeybee habitat in the state of Georgia through honey tasting and promotion events, educational speakers at the Association's fall meeting, and the Jr. Beekeeper Youth Education Program
 - Partner with Georgia Green Industry Association to provide conservation, best management practices, and nationally-sanctioned contractor certification training to landscape and irrigation contractors; provide major garden center locations in the state with point-of-purchase water conservation and best management practices; and provide consumer water conservation educational materials
 - Partner with Shepherd's Hill Farm to develop a greenhouse project that teaches youth the importance of agriculture in our society by promoting learning and healing through a homestead farming model
 - Partner with the Children's Museum of Atlanta to make children and families aware of the diversity of Georgia specialty crops, the importance of eating a variety of Georgia fruits and vegetables, and the advantages to eating locally grown produce through the "Eat a Georgia Rainbow" program
 - Partner with the Georgia Fruits & Vegetable Growers Association to continue education, training and research for Georgia and other southeastern specialty crop producers in the area of production techniques, pest management, food safety, labor practices, marketing and farm management

- Partner with the Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors to provide training programs for the school administrators, nutrition staff, and local fruit and vegetable producers that will address the challenges of Farm to School implementation; and conduct outreach to parents and schoolchildren that will concentrate on the health benefits of consuming fruits and vegetables, and children will be taught how to plant and maintain school gardens
- Partner with the Georgia Pomegranate Association to identify pomegranate cultivars suitable for production in Georgia, pathogen susceptibility of these cultivars, their storage potential, nutraceutical content, as well as extractable juice yield
- Partner with the University of Georgia to develop a drying process and appropriate products for the Georgia Rabbiteye blueberries with preserved nutritional quality and high consumer acceptance; and produce a low calorie sweetened dried blueberries with a natural sweetener (Stevia) for diabetic and calorie conscious consumers
- Partner with the University of Georgia to develop and deploy biological and alternative tactics for management of the primary insect and mite pests in cut flower production using the gerbera system as a model
- Partner with the Georgia Blueberry Growers Association to research recommendations for control measures of Bacterial Leaf Scorch in the southern highbush blueberry that address propagation, varietal differences, new varieties, and chemical/cultural control techniques
- Partner with the Georgia Olive Growers Association to contract with an olive specialist to maintain existing acres and to educate future olive growers

Guam Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$164,711.28	Number of Projects:	1
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- Partner with the University of Guam to obtain resistant, certified, disease-free taro now available from international germplasm banks and propagate it via tissue culture in a relatively short time, making it available at cost to local taro growers

Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$378,728.69	Number of Projects:	13
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- Partner with the Hawaii Tropical Flower Council to direct an innovative marketing approach that will increase “Hawaii Tropical Flower” and “HENA” brand awareness and accessibility to national and international retail sellers and end consumers, support the overall Hawaii grown “tropical’s” brand strategy marketing plan and collateral, synergistically align with complimentary industry’s “Hawaii” brand marketing, improve Hawaii tropical agriculture’s web presence and member’s e-commerce capability, and increase larger, small box direct to consumer sales
- Partner with First Daughter Mediaworks, Inc. to increase consumer spending and build awareness of the benefits of buying locally grown and made specialty crops through a series of 30 second promotional spots and two-to-three minute videos
- Partner with Living Breath, LLC to conduct six festivals at the Haleiwa Farmers’ Market that will promote Hawaii specialty crops including cacao, tropical flowers, tomatoes, tropical fruits, taro, and herbs
- Partner with the Hawaii Coffee Association to promote and market Hawaii coffee at major trade/food shows by creating, staffing, and managing exhibitor booths that feature Hawaii brewed coffee
- Partner with Fly Away Holidays, Inc. to create a state-wide specialty crop agricultural and culinary tour program that incorporates Hawaii’s Seal of Quality farms and their Seal of Quality products that are sold at those farms
- Partner with the Hawaii Organic Farmers’ Association to provide certified organic producers of fruits, nuts, vegetables, and nursery crops in Hawaii with increased access to buyers through electronic marketing Hawaii Organic Farmers’ Association website
- Increase consumer sale through familiarization of products and retail locations through the development of special events that showcase specialty crop producers that participated in the Seals of Quality program
- Build product awareness, reinforce the message of Hawaii’s Seal of Quality program, and encourage vendor sales of specialty crops grown in Hawaii through the distribution of customized collateral promotional materials with the Seal of Quality marketing logo
- Design and print rack cards to foster consumer awareness of Hawaii’s specialty crop industry through educational information regarding proper product utilization

- Showcase new and innovative menu dishes that utilize specialty crop ingredients that are grown in Hawaii at two “Celebrity Chefs’ Events”
- Partner with the Hawaii Coffee Association and the Hawaii Coffee Growers’ Association to evaluate and identify new coffee cultivars which produce higher market value in growers’ fields at various areas in Hawaii
- Partner with the Maui Flower Growers’ Association to provide a “safety net” flower shipping box inventory on Maui to eliminate future shipping interruptions
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$882,094.50	Number of Projects:	12
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- Partner with Boise State University-Tech Help to improve the competitiveness of Idaho’s onion, potato, apple, cherry and pea/lentil packers and processors by delivering workshops and on-site assessments in food safety, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP), Global Food Safety Initiative, Lean production, and sustainable environmental practices to the packers and processors of Idaho’s major specialty crops
- Partner with the Idaho Hunger Relief Taskforce to increase consumption and competitiveness of locally grown specialty crops sold only through Idaho farmers’ markets by expanding and aiding in development of farmers’ market capacity to participate in USDA nutrition programs and designing outreach to low-income consumers
- Increase consumer awareness and demand for Idaho fruits, vegetables, wine, herbs and nursery products through statewide television advertising
- Partner with USDA, Agricultural Research Service and Boise State University to evaluate the performance of lesser-known wine grape cultivars from Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece and France by establishing an experimental trial site in southwestern Idaho and participating in a novel, coordinated, nationwide, network of trial locations
- Partner with the Idaho Apple Commission in cooperation with the University of Idaho to study the influence of different methods and/or quantity of irrigation, nitrogen levels, orchard designs, and tree spacing on yield, fruit quality and mineral nutrients in the ‘Fuji’ apple
- Partner with the Idaho Potato Commission in cooperation with the University of Idaho - Office of Sponsored Programs to enhance competitiveness of the Idaho potato industry by optimizing pesticide, fertilizer and irrigation inputs, which will address consumer’s requests for more sustainable production practices
- Partner with the Snake River Table Grape Growers Association to evaluate yield, and berry quality of new varieties with different canopy designs; study the effects of certain growth regulators such as gibberellic acid (GA) on berry size and quality; and have cooperative studies with 8 growers to study the effects of promising cultivars with different canopy designs on berry quality and yield under various microclimatic conditions of Idaho
- Partner with the Idaho Bean Commission in cooperation with the University of Idaho and Oregon State University to develop a virus-resistant Idaho-grown, yellow bean seed for sale nationally and for export to Mexico
- Partner with the Idaho Mint Commission to improve integrated pest management (IPM) of mint root borer in mint by developing an economic threshold for *Fumibotys fumalis* (Guenee) that is based on an above ground life stage (eggs) of the pest rather than a below ground life stage (larvae)
- Partner with the University of Idaho to lead a comprehensive strategy to control PVY (potato virus Y) and eliminate necrotic PVY strains from the State
- Partner with the Caldwell/Canyon County Economic Development Council to strengthen the market position of a broad range of specialty crop growers by adding food processing capacity at the University of Idaho, Food Technology Center, affordable access to climate-controlled storage, dehydration, milling, pressing and juicing that will enable growers to convert post-harvest perishables into value-added products
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Illinois Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$437,304.71	Number of Projects:	29
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- Partner with Benton Farmers' Market to emphasize only Illinois specialty crops in print and radio advertising to support the specialty crop vendors at the market
- Partner with the Mount Carroll Chamber of Commerce Farmers' Market to promote local specialty crops. Radio advertising will feature "sound bytes" specific to eligible specialty crops and print and other advertising, including signs, banners, and posters, will feature photos and names of eligible specialty crops
- Partner with the Historic Quincy Business District to conduct workshops for only specialty crop growers; conduct vendor workshops with the educational program solely displaying and highlighting specialty crop products; conduct an advertising and promotion campaign highlighting only individual specialty crop vendors; and publish a newsletter with articles on specialty crops and local food guide describing where customers can locate specialty crop products
- Partner with the Brookfield Chamber of Commerce to advertise the Brookfield Farmers' Market through display board print production that promotes specialty crops and specialty crop growers; newspaper advertisements displaying a list of popular and available specialty crops; flyer and posters providing a list of seasonably available specialty crops and graphics of specialty crops; signs that highlight specialty crops; and sustainable shopping bags that list specialty crops available at the market
- Partner with Edgebrook Limited Partnership, LLC to purchase "Learn Great Foods" books for distribution at the Edgebrook Farmers' Market whose main ingredient are specialty crops; advertise the market using the "Where Fresh Is" logo used solely by specialty crop producers and marketers within the State; and conduct cooking demonstration that will only use specialty crops as their main focus
- Partner with Green City Market to publish and distribute "Know Your Food...Know Your Farmer" brochure to give Chicagoans an understanding of every farmer and producer at Green City Market. Matching funds will be provided for the non-specialty crop farmers in the brochure
- Partner with Evanston Community Development Corporation to fund a portion of the market manager's salary at the West End Market to deliver specialty crop marketing materials to customers and facilitate the purchase of produce at wholesale from African American farmers; purchase tents and tables to be used by specialty crop vendors only; and install signage advertising the market takes Link cards for purchase of specialty crops by Senior and WIC coupons; and distribute market print materials to promote produce sold at the market
- Partner with Total Health Awareness Team to promote the "Local Only" farmers' market highlighting available specialty crops and print and distribute the "Farm to Family" newsletter and the Northern Illinois Local Foods Directory to educate the public about current and potential vendors at the Natural Food Cooperative of Rockford. Matching funds will be provided to cover non-specialty crops in the newsletter and Directory
- Partner with the Downtown Bloomington Association to promote the Downtown Bloomington Farmers' Market through television/radio/online series that will focus 100% on eligible specialty crops
- Partner with Green City Market to preserve and promote heirloom varieties; teach children the importance of specialty crops; provide a locavore resource kit to challenge Chicago consumers to support local, sustainably grown farmers and eat their products. Matching funds will be provided to cover the non-specialty crop portion of the project
- Partner with the City of Urbana to promote Eat Here, designed solely to encourage residents to add Urbana's Market at the Square to their grocery shopping route each week to purchase Illinois-grown fruits and vegetables
- Partner with CBS Broadcasting to create ads on television and the internet involving the "Illinois...Where Fresh Is" logo solely promoting specialty crops and healthier eating habits
- Partner with FamilyFarmed.org to identify barriers to increase Illinois specialty crop production, devise workable solutions to resolve those barriers and complete a feasibility assessment for the creation of a distribution facility in order to increase the supply of Illinois grown fruits and vegetables into the Illinois wholesale marketplace
- Partner with Clinton Area Farmers and Artisans Market and University of Illinois Extension – DeWitt County to enhance the Family Nutrition Program with classroom instructions for all 4th grade classes focusing on specialty crops featured throughout the Market season; encourage "victory gardens" through distribution of seeds; promote the Market through advertisement that will only feature specialty crops; and provide market coupons that will only be used for specialty crops at the Farmers Market
- Partner with Geneva Green Market to promote their educational activities and Geneva Winter Market by creating instructional videos, a quarterly publication of news and events, website, an e-mail newsletter and newspaper and radio advertisements that solely promote specialty crops
- Partner with Illinois Specialty Growers Association to provide pre-conference workshops and five educational tracts at the 2011 Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism and Organic Conference

- Partner with Illinois Stewardship Alliance to conduct an analysis of the local food and farm economy and to provide advertising funds only to “Buy Fresh Buy Local” specialty crop members. Matching funds will be provided to cover any portion of travel, staff time and other costs that do not solely support the specialty crop industry
- Partner with Uptown Marketing to promote through television/radio/online series the Market to Menu project to focus 100% on featuring specialty crop local farmers, their specialty produce and ways to use their produce
- Partner with Pana Chamber of Commerce to provide advertising for their 2010 Farmers Market to carry content that directly promotes specialty crops
- Partner with Woodstock Farmers’ Market to provide educational presentations / material to solely promote local specialty crop harvest availability, food preservation and food safety
- Partner with the Experimental Station to expand their adult cooking classes, in-school program that focuses entirely on local organic and sustainably grown fruits and vegetables, after-school classes, farm tours that target specialty crop farms, and At-Market Market School designed to educate children and adults about healthy and sustainable eating. Matching funds will be provided to ensure that all activities solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops
- Partner with Peasants’ Plot to host a group of interested growers for a High Tunnel Workshop to increase use of high tunnels for season extension of organic tomatoes and peppers within the model of the small family farm
- Partner with Belleville Main Street to conduct a series of classes that will focus on nutrition education, food safety, cooking skills development, a connection to the farm, and increased knowledge of specialty crops to children and their parents
- Partner with Comer Science and Education Foundation to extend the growing season and increase growing space on the 8,000 square foot rooftop garden located on top of the Gary Comer Youth Center; train local teens on seed to table concept by providing part-time employment rotating between the garden (growing, harvesting, packaging and distributing) and learning culinary skills; and hold garden nutritional events
- Partner with the University of Illinois to research and evaluate non-petroleum based (organic-based) plant pots through the assessment of (1) the integration of non-petroleum based pots in mechanized production settings and (2) to track costs, both direct and indirect, associated with the integration of these pots into highly mechanized systems
- Partner with the DeWitt County Human Resource Center to grow squash varieties, cantaloupe and watermelon in garden plots mulched with recycled newsprint, inform the public of the benefits and provide employment opportunities for clients with disabilities
- Partner with Eckert Orchards Inc. to propagate test trees with the intent to provide new apple cultivars, well adapted to the Midwest, to interested growers for field evaluation; establish a 3,000 tree plot of new seedlings; and establish two grower-sited test blocks of advanced selections
- Partner with George C. Shank to construct a high tunnel to extend the growing season of strawberries and reduce loss by spring freeze and share the experience and results by providing farm tours to interested growers and school children
- Partner with Spring Valley Farm & Vineyard to construct a high tunnel with drip irrigation and fertilizer injection systems that will serve as a demonstration area of how tomatoes and other similar vegetable products can be grown commercially with an extended growing season

Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$382,302.09

Number of Projects:

18

- Implement a cost-share reimbursement program to provide advertising, displays, and promotional material grants to Indiana farmers’ markets to use imagery of fruits and vegetables in their advertising, displays, and promotional materials to ensure specialty crops are receiving the full amount of attention
- Develop a functional web tool for the Indiana’s Farmers’ Markets, U-Pick and Agritourism Directory that shows various kinds of produce that is available at each and every location where consumers could view detailed information and maps about various farmers’ markets and road side produce stands
- Partner with the 'Original Farmers’ Market' at the Indianapolis City Market to develop a demonstration kitchen, engaging local chefs and featuring produce from the 'Original Farmers’ Market' in an ongoing series of educational cooking classes using fresh local Indiana products
- Partner with the Bloomington Kitchen Incubator organization to conduct market research of small and rural locally owned retail stores to understand their needs, their clientele, and their interest in locally grown fruits and vegetables and based on the information, develop marketing materials promoting local fruits and vegetables and local food businesses

- Partner with the ‘Slow Food Indy Urban Farm Project’ to implement a multi-pronged approach to creating a local food system involving production, sales, and training, through the creation of a pilot garden where specialty crops are taken from planting at White River State Park to retail at City Market, Indy Winter Farmer Markets, and downtown area restaurants
- Market and promote the National Maple Syrup Festival, held annually in Medora, Indiana, as well as educate consumers about the superior taste and quality of 100% Indiana maple syrup, and train Indiana syrup producers to take advantage of the state’s growing reputation as a producer of great syrup
- Partner with the Indiana Christmas Tree Growers’ Association to develop and conduct a statewide print and electronic-media marketing campaign for the Indiana real Christmas tree industry
- Partner with Slow Food Indiana to develop and implement a day devoted to highlighting Indiana specialty crops, specialty crop products, and the local restaurants that draw attention to these items on their menus in a large-scale, open-to-the-public educational event
- Partner with Indiana University to research analysis of market venues for specialty crops in Indiana, specifically to comprehend the factors contributing to consumer participation in Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs and farmers’ markets, two of the primary venues for distribution of specialty crops in Indiana
- Provide upkeep of MarketMaker by ensuring that the program is well advertised and updated by specialty crop producers on a regular basis
- Partner with Indy Winter Farmers' Market to implement a voucher program that will improve access to fresh, healthy, Indiana-grown specialty crops
- Partner with the Local Growers' Guild to promote eating locally-grown specialty crops through the Bloomington Winter Farmers' Market
- Partner with the Local Growers’ Guild to launch a pilot project reaching out to children through the Backpack Buddies program of the Community Kitchen of Monroe County to provide kid-focused newsletters educating them about the importance of locally grown specialty crops and to provide samples of locally-grown fruits and vegetables
- Partner with Big City Farms to develop curriculum designed to expose future urban farmers not only to the functional labor aspects of farming but also to the marketing, promotion and distribution components of specialty crops
- Partner with Big City Farms to develop a comprehensive Urban Farmer Apprenticeship Program for people interested in pursuing sustainable and profitable careers in agriculture
- Partner with Purdue Extension educators to complete a fungicide research study to control foliar disease on cucurbits in organic vegetable production and present the data at growers meetings
- Partner with Purdue University to increase registered pesticide sensitive specialty crop and habitat acres managed by an identified stakeholder specialty crop producer group; and increase awareness of registered pesticide sensitive specialty crops and habitats to local pesticide applicator communities (row crop, aerial, right-of-way) to prevent unintended drift residue impacts that affect yield and marketability of produce
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Amount Awarded:	\$243,405.15	Number of Projects:	10
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- Partner with Northeast Region Iowa State Extension, the Leopold Center, and the Northeast Iowa Food and Farm Coalition to initiate research and quality assurance activities, which encompasses six counties, to expand markets for locally grown specialty crops
- Partner with Iowa Heartland Resource Conservation and Development and Drake University to expand the Greater Des Moines Buy Fresh Buy Local campaign to greatly increase emphasis on fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops and their producers
- Partner with Pathfinders Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. to provide a Local Food Coordinator in order to create new markets for locally grown specialty crops through networking, marketing, and active coordination between institutional buyers and regional producers
- Partner with the Iowa State Horticultural Society to facilitate an event that provides an education opportunity for both home gardeners and professionals in all aspects of specialty crops production and to promote horticulture in Iowa

- Partner with the Iowa Department of Education to continue to establish relationships between growers and their local communities through promoting the purchase of locally produced food in Iowan schools, strengthen the farm economy, and offer educational opportunities to improve child nutrition and health
- Provide materials and guidance for WIC clinic staff to motivate participants in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program to increase the purchase and consumption of fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables from farmers' markets and farm stands.
- Partner with the Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association to bring expert speakers to the Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference 2010 to provide an educational opportunity for Iowa fruit and vegetable farmers to consider the many aspects of sustainability and how sustainability impacts them
- Partner with Prairie Winds Resource Conservation & Development, Inc. to research the nutrient content, antioxidant content, and sensory characteristics of Aronia berry products including fresh juice, processed juice, freeze dried drink mix, jams, jellies, and wine
- Partner with the Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association to develop production techniques specific to Iowa along with utilizing various cultivars in order to support an extended season for Iowa fruit growers.
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Kansas Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$214,055.68	Number of Projects:	8
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- Partner with the Kansas Rural Center to provide a more consistent and intentional framework for food safety training in good agricultural practices for specialty crop producers through updated educational materials and increased training opportunities
- Conduct a survey and analyze the results of the grape and wine industry in order to provide valuable data on the different varieties of grape vines growing in the state, fruit used to make wine, types of wine produced, gallonage of wine produced, tourist information, and other economic data
- Partner with the Kansas Farm Bureau to partner with five county Farm Bureau associations and key stakeholders within each county to address issues experienced by specialty crop growers including the creation of farmers' markets where they currently do not exist, identify new growers, and build a cooperative effort among growers to explore the best suited opportunities related to cooperative agreements, opening institutional markets, creating retail opportunities, and contract grower arrangements
- Partner with the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom to create resource lesson plans with factual information about Kansas specialty crops, which will increase student knowledge and consumption of local fruits and vegetables
- Partner with the Kansas State University Cooperative Extension to extend information about high tunnel technology to specialty crop producers across Kansas through a series of workshops, farm tours, and field days as well as support research on high tunnel production and cultivar evaluation of heirloom and commercial tomato, mini cucumbers, onion plants, and raspberries
- Partner with the Kansas Grape Grower and Winemakers Association to lease a harvester, collect data regarding labor savings, collect data regarding harvested crop quality, and collect any noteworthy anecdotal information in order to establish baseline cost information concerning grape growing and wine production
- Partner with Kansas State University to establish a research and evaluation experimental planting to examine several alternative conifer species as well as develop a color printed Extension Bulletin, which describes alternative conifers that may be used as Christmas trees or in the nursery and landscaping industry
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Kentucky Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$237,590.08	Number of Projects:	8
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- Hire a marketing specialist to solely focus on the promotion and development of specialty crops throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the areas of Community Supported Agriculture and Farmers' Markets
- Develop and implement a program that will involve the creation/modification of recipes that utilize specialty crops
- Develop and implement a series of 'Healthy Living Through Food' forums and supplemental programming, which will provide an avenue to connect Kentucky specialty crop producers or their products with targeted decision makers in institutional buying or high-level programming positions
- Partner with Kentucky State University to conduct specialty crop educational opportunities in beginning, new, and expanding current production, proper food safety methods, marketing, and production techniques as part of a monthly outreach program to socially disadvantaged, beginning and established producers/farmers, and other interested parties
- Partner with the University of Kentucky to develop and evaluate a no-till production system for organic sweet corn and winter squash using a systems approach that integrates weed management with insect and insect-vectored disease control techniques
- Partner with the University of Kentucky to study the challenges and limitations to organic grape production in Kentucky and begin to identify crop protection strategies to maximize vineyard outputs and vine health
- Partner with Kentucky State University to develop environmentally sound agricultural insect pest management practices that allow certified organic production of high value primocane blackberries to reduce pesticide inputs and increase biodiversity
- Partner with Berea College to evaluate the effectiveness and financial feasibility of two integrated pest management systems for organic potato production in Kentucky

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Amount Awarded:	\$338,982.59	Number of Projects:	6
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- Partner with the Louisiana State University – Agricultural Center to identify and promote plants that perform exceptionally well in Louisiana and ensure that it is available to all producers and retailers in the state
- Partner with the Louisiana Strawberry Marketing Board to educate consumers through a marketing campaign that promotes the nutritional benefits and qualities of Louisiana strawberries and inform the public of their availability thereby increasing the sales of strawberries
- Develop and Construct a rolling billboard to promote and encourage consumers to eat fresh, local specialty crops
- Partner with Marketumbrella.org to introduce vulnerable children living in urban areas to Louisiana specialty crops – especially spring strawberries and greens – via educational field trips to the Crescent City Farmers Market to take place during the school year
- Partner with marketumbrella.org to educate farmers on how to diversity their crop production to include banana production
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

Amount Awarded:	\$382,441.97	Number of Projects:	8
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- Partner with AgMatters, LLC to provide specialty crop farmers technical assistance to obtain appropriate soil, tissue, and nutrient analysis reports to facilitate nutrient management planning
- Partner with Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association to provide basic food safety training to specialty crop farmers, with an emphasis on those selling directly to consumers (farmers' markets, CSAs) and to develop food safety plans that meet the standards embedded in current food safety proposals (e.g., HR 2749)
- Partner with the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association to encourage more consumption of local, seasonal, and organic specialty crops through a regular series of promotional brochures and directories
- Partner with the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine to increase demand and consumption of wild blueberries by communicating the fruit's health and nutritional benefits to adults and children nationwide through a Food Page Feature, a Satellite Media Tour, and a National Radio Public Service Announcement campaign

- Partner with the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine in collaboration with the Wild Blueberry Association of North America to use Twitter Social Media in coordination with a book release from Alison Fishman, Chef, Author and co-host of "Cook Yourself Thin" on the Lifetime Channel and TV spokesperson for the Cooking Light magazine to promote the nutritional benefits of wild blueberries
- Partner with AgMatters, LLC to provide Good Agricultural Practice certification preparation to 40 specialty crop farms
- Partner with the Maine Potato Board and University of Maine to develop and select new potato varieties with improved pest resistance
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$503,304.47	Number of Projects:	6
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- Provide cost share assistance for Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) certification and develop a GAP program geared to direct markets and Maryland Farm to School program
- Continue to promote Maryland’s Best message to buy local produce through radio and print advertising and promotional events, meetings and conventions. Other Maryland’s Best promotions covering non-specialty crops will be charged to Maryland State funds or other grants
- Implement Farm to School workshops and promotional programs to increase student awareness and consumption of Maryland grown fruits and vegetables year around. State funds will be used to cover the cost of workshop registrants who identify they supply or purchase non-specialty crops
- Partner with Maryland Wineries Association to redesign Marylandwine.com website and create point-of-sale material under “Maryland’s Best” to promote Maryland wines
- Partner with Maryland Christmas Tree Association to run a state wide marketing program, which includes media ads and website updates promoting real trees and where to get them
- Partner with Garrett-Preston Rural Development Coalition to develop growing systems to produce strawberries, blueberries and raspberries year around using unheated tunnels and heated greenhouses

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

Amount Awarded:	\$390,474.69	Number of Projects:	14
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- Partner with the New England Apple Association to complete and distribute a series of video presentations as a teaching tool for educators and the general public about how New England apples are grown, harvested and prepared
- Partner with the Massachusetts Farm Wineries Growers’ Association to conduct educational programs related to the growing of grapes in Massachusetts’ diverse geographic and climatic environment, as well as programs that help winemakers in the state improve the quality of their products
- Partner with the Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership to recruit social service agencies to join their to Business-to-Business (B2B) Network to promote the nutritional benefits associated with consumption of local fruits and vegetables
- Partner with the Massachusetts Flower Growers’ Association to promote Massachusetts Grown Plants to the consumers of Massachusetts through website promotions and the creation of fact sheets
- Partner with the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Agricultural Preservation Corporation to target communications and trainings for wholesale specialty crop operators about school sales opportunities and issues; help farmers promote the “new” value of local fruits and vegetables to food distribution companies; facilitate conversations between wholesale growers, distribution companies, and school food service directors about possible cooperative sales and distribution systems; communicate with school food service directors about the value of student consumption of local specialty crops and effective methods for obtaining these
- Partner with Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association to inventory standards, assemble data about the Massachusetts cranberry industry including the current use of sustainable practices, identify gaps in practices, and develop a “spectrum of sustainability” to measure their impacts

- Partner with Nuestras Raíces and the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts to solely promote specialty crops being sold at three farmers' markets in Hampden and Berkshire Counties, and a cooperative farm stand at Nuestras Raíces Farm incubator training site; continue to pilot a “Double Value” public benefit matching program at the three Farmers’ Market, matching use of EBT, WIC and senior coupons utilized at the market one-to-one, solely to be used for eligible specialty crops
- Partner with the UMass Extension to conduct marketing efforts in the local community of Martha’s Vineyard to develop a more educated buying public, and form positive consumer connections to specialty crops; increase cultivation of, and publicity regarding, traditional Brazilian staple crops maxixe, abóbora japonesa, and taioba to allow growers access to vibrant new markets; outreach to the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Association, to increase communication between growers and grocers that will result in more efficient coordination of production and distribution networks for locally grown specialty crops
- Partner with Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture in conjunction with the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Association to solely promote local specialty crops through a media campaign
- Partner with the Sustainable Business Network of Greater MA (SBN) in conjunction with Farm Fresh Rhode Island to expand the information in the online farm database, www.farmfresh.org, to identify locally-grown specialty crop resources along a comprehensive food chain from farm crop to eater; in collaboration with Chefs Collaborative, The Food Project and other SBN partners, organize ALLocal dinners and events to increase awareness and demand by local leaders and eaters for local fruits and vegetables throughout all seasons; and design stakeholder workshops to encourage entrepreneurial exchange and launch the first Massachusetts Local Food Festival. To ensure that grant funds solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops, SBN will provide a fifty percent match to account for non-specialty crop products and vendors at the ALLocal dinners and Massachusetts Local Food Festival
- Conduct research, comparative analysis to develop a sustainability practice matrix and support tools for fruit and vegetable growers, by commodity and scale of operation, which will build upon current sector practice and commodity Best Management Practices (BMPs); and incorporate food safety and quality standards common to the USDA Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices program
- Partner with the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc. to evaluate the feasibility of tunnel-sprayer technology in Massachusetts orchards, some with uneven terrain and small blocks to reduce the amount of pesticide applied and the amount of drift to non-target areas, decreasing both human and environmental risks
- Partner with Barnstable County Beekeeper’s Association’s to build and establish two colonies in three different locations for a total of six new colonies utilizing basic equipment so the membership at large can be taught to accomplish the same in their own backyard apiaries
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Amount Awarded:	\$1,230,431.52	Number of Projects:	24
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- Partner with Michigan Food and Farming Systems to provide food safety education and information on the latest food safety research to support specialty crop producers in completing and implementing a Good Agricultural Practices and/or Good Handling Practices plan
- Partner with the Michigan Potato Management Board to conduct comparative acrylamide testing to determine asparagine levels in raw tubers after harvest
- Partner with Michigan Processing Apple Growers Division of Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association to conduct asparagus, tart cherry, peach and apple grower educational meeting on Good Agricultural Practices and worker health and hygiene
- Create a Select Michigan consumer directory of nurseries, greenhouses, and sod operations; support contractual staff to organize a Select Michigan farmers market that only specialty crop companies and businesses will be permitted to participate; create website content and maintain the Select Michigan website solely to promote specialty crop companies; sponsor and promote a Michigan Pavilion at the Michigan Grocers Association annual meeting and trade show solely for specialty crop vendors; and create statewide outdoor advertising campaign for Michigan specialty crops focusing on the specialty crop from which a particular product was made

- Partner with the Michigan Farm Market and Agri-Tourism Association in coordination with the Michigan Apple Committee to prompt hotel guests to visit a local apple farm and encourage hotel/motel properties that serve breakfast, cater or have restaurants to source local Michigan apples
- Partner with the Michigan Christmas Tree Association to conduct a campaign of direct mail and display advertising directed to Christmas tree buyers that drives them to the Michigan Christmas Tree Association website and connects them directly with Michigan Christmas tree growers; and educate elementary school children about natural Christmas trees
- Partner with Central Detroit Christian Community Development Corporation to research the need for fresh produce in underserved areas in Detroit; market and promote the expansion of a produce truck route to those areas
- Partner with the Cherry Marketing Institute to conduct an interactive/social marketing initiative to promote tart cherries
- Partner with Michigan Asparagus Industry Development Program to contract with the National Agricultural Statistics Service to obtain updated data which will assist in predicting raw asparagus product supplies aiding in crop pricing; and promote Michigan asparagus through Select Michigan radio spots
- Partner with the National Grape Cooperative to assist Michigan grape growers with completion of the Grape*A*Syst Program; facilitate the adoption of sustainable viticulture practices by working with grape growers to develop an action plan for their vineyards; and increase grape grower participation in the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program
- Partner with the Michigan Apple Association to utilize space in the Michigan Pavilion at the National Restaurant Show to showcase a comprehensive presentation of Michigan fruit desserts and other dishes
- Partner with the Michigan Bean Commission to secure booth space at various domestic and international trade shows to showcase the high quality products grown and processed in Michigan
- Partner with West Michigan Tourist Association to promote agri-tourism opportunities solely for specialty crop members
- Form a Culinary Tourism Alliance to increase sales and profitability for Michigan specialty crops through increased menu offerings of local products at Michigan restaurants; and promote Michigan as a destination for culinary travel experiences
- Partner with the Michigan Vegetable Council to work in collaboration with the Michigan State University Vegetable Area of Expertise Team to provide grower education at the 2009 Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market Expo
- Partner with Michigan State University Agricultural Experiment Stations to establish high density and other innovative research plantings of apple, cherry, grape, blueberry, raspberry and peach at campus farms to develop and deliver evolving management tactics, strategies and tools that will keep Michigan fruit producers profitable
- Partner with Michigan State University to study water and nutrient management research on container-grown landscape trees; compare the growth and quality of landscape shade trees and conifers grown with conventional fertilizers and organic-approved fertilizers; and develop whole crop water nutrient budgets for shade tree and conifer crops grown with conventional and organic-fertilizers
- Partner with Michigan State University to identify novel apple varieties and wild species that produce high levels of valuable anthocyanin compounds in fruit, select those optimal for Michigan cultivation, and provide growers with the resources needed to establish such varieties for juice and food additives
- Partner with the Michigan Bean Commission to evaluate row width and plant density at several levels and sites; assess impact and adaptability of suitable dry bean cultivars and breeding lines; assess plant desiccants and disease control strategies; and improve quality of direct harvest beans
- Partner with Michigan State University to screen currently available petunia cultivars for early flowering under non-optimal conditions, and to develop baseline genetic data that will facilitate efforts to develop molecular markers for early flowering for use in future breeding
- Partner with Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association to maximize pre-emergence herbicide efficacy by evaluating specific herbicide/weed interactions; investigate strategies for controlling weeds with non-chemical cultural practices; and characterize the diversity and abundance of weedy plants present
- Partner with Michigan State University to optimize strip-tillage systems which protect vulnerable carrot seedlings from wind and soil erosion while improving soil health; enhance germination/emergence through variety testing, seed priming, and soil management approaches; and evaluate optimal planting densities to maximize carrot quality and profit
- Partner with the Food System Economic Partnership to create and expand opportunities for specialty crop farmers in Southeast Michigan in order to increase production and meet demand for local fruits and vegetables from schools

- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$578,008.12	Number of Projects:	13
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- Partner with the University of Minnesota to increase the use of Minnesota-grown fruits and vegetables in school nutrition programs by making the connections to schools receiving funding through the recently authorized Federal Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program
- Partner with the Minnesota Project, Inc. to build markets for locally-grown specialty crops by providing technical assistance and training to restaurant and college campus buyers in Minnesota through Heartland Food Network program
- Partner with the University of Minnesota to design local food supply chains for specialty crops producers in Central Minnesota
- Partner with the Organic Tree Fruit Association to make locally grown tree fruit crops more competitive in Minnesota by helping growers take advantage of the increasing interest in local organic products
- Partner with the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy to bring more healthy locally grown produce into Minnesota Health Care Institutions by increasing awareness and expanding the purchase and consumption of locally produced specialty crops by hospital patients, employees and visitors
- Partner with the Minnesota Grown Promotion Group, Inc. to assist Minnesota specialty crop producers by enhancing Minnesota’s buy local campaign for specialty crops in the Minnesota Grown Program through: development of a new database of fruit and vegetable growers who market to wholesale markets such as grocery stores and restaurants; continuation to improve functionality of the Minnesota Grown Directory; continuation to increase consumer purchases of fruits and vegetables by driving traffic to the Minnesota Grown website through the use of keywords related to specialty crops; and development of new point-of-sale materials to identify and promote Minnesota Grown fruits and vegetables in grocery stores. Because improvements to the online Directory benefit non-specialty crop producers, the Minnesota Grown Promotion Group will provide matching funds to pay for no less than 25% of the project costs
- Partner with the Minnesota Food Association to assist socially disadvantaged and limited resource farms in the Minnesota and the St. Croix River Valley in establishing and growing their organic specialty crop farm enterprises
- Enhance the competitiveness of apples, berries, grapes, fresh market mixed vegetables, pumpkins, and fresh market sweet corn in Minnesota by s specialty crop enterprise management program
- Partner with the University of Minnesota to develop native and native-European hybrid hazelnut germplasm and agronomics for Minnesota
- Partner with the Northarvest Bean Growers Association and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture to strengthen value-added programs on dry edible beans through: increased communication efforts on the health benefits of dry beans to health professionals; the summary of existing scientific research to prepare a health-related statement to assist the trade and consumers in understanding the health benefits of dry beans; and the expansion of current basic research in discovery and quantification of health benefits of dry beans
- Partner with the Minnesota Turf Seed Council to determine the seed production potential of the native prairie junegrass in Minnesota and evaluate the species for use as a low-input, sustainable turf grass
- Partner with the Women’s Environmental Institute to increase production and consumption of culturally based healthful specialty food crops in Northside & Philips Neighborhoods of Minneapolis by providing opportunities and resources for cross-cultural, cross-neighborhood research, development, and implementation of economic initiatives
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce

Amount Awarded:	\$268,376.55	Number of Projects:	14
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- Partner with Mississippi State University to assess the state of safety and quality of Mississippi farmed produce, train farmers on the latest food safety guidelines/regulations to ready them for certification, and assist them by also training selected extension specialists

- Partner with Mississippi State University to develop a food safety manual and develop and deliver food safety training classes solely for farmers’ market managers and vendors of specialty crops and the value-added products made with specialty crops
- Partner with the Mississippi Sweet Potato Council to participate in the Produce Marketing Association tradeshow, conduct grower educational seminars, conduct nutrition workshops for food nutritionists, and implement a radio campaign to promote sweet potatoes
- Partner with Mississippi State University to further educate Mississippi producers in the field of specialty crop production by developing three venues -- The Greenhouse Tomato Short Course, the Deep South Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference and Trade Show, and the Fall Flower & Garden Fest
- Partner with the Mississippi Urban Forest Council to establish a model fruit orchard and vegetable site in the downtown Jackson area and develop an educational toolkit to include everything one would need to know to begin a fruit and/or vegetable garden
- Partner with the Mississippi Association of Cooperatives to develop and implement “Effective Education and Training for Prosperous Promotion and Marketing” to provide small specialty crop producers access to a state-wide promotion and marketing program through regional education and training. Monitoring to ensure all participants are specialty crop producers will take place at registration for all education, training, and demonstrations
- Partner with the Mississippi Nursery and Landscape Association to increase the production and market share of Mississippi grown nursery plants through promotion of the Mississippi Medallion & Mississippi Medallion Plant of the Year program
- Implement an educational initiative to inform consumers about specialty crops that are produced during the fall in Mississippi and promote their availability at area farmers’ markets. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with the Mississippi Beekeepers Association to conduct beekeeping workshops and to conduct educational sessions about beekeeping to schools and libraries
- Partner with Mississippi State University to investigate different high tunnel systems for specialty cut flower production in Mississippi and recommend best management practices to growers through extension routes
- Partner with Mississippi State University to develop best management practices with focus on nutrient management (soil amendment and fertilizer) to benefit transitional and organic vegetable and cut flower production systems in high tunnels
- Partner with the Mississippi Agricultural & Forestry Experiment Station to collect southern heirloom apple cultivars and plant them in replicated trials to identify cultivars with good production potential in northern Mississippi using little or no fungicides and insecticides, and then evaluate fruit quality characteristics of the productive cultivars
- Partner with Mississippi Beekeepers Association and Mississippi State University to test the efficacy of a potentially marketable trap for adult small hive beetle
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Missouri Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$269,731.58	Number of Projects:	13
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- Partner with University of Missouri – Columbia to identify and communicate easy-to-understand, easy-to-use social media strategies and best practices for marketing specialty crops that farmers’ market organizers and vendors can adopt to begin or enhance a social media presence
- Partner with the River Hills Elderberry Producers to introduce farmers and agricultural landowners to the benefits of raising elderberries and attract them to educational meetings about the benefits of cooperative membership and elderberry culture
- Partner with EarthDance to enhance the competitiveness of sustainably-grown heirloom vegetables by increasing the number of producers through an innovative apprenticeship program based in St. Louis, Missouri
- Partner with Webb City Farmers’ Market to improve the success of immigrant farmers through workshops that demonstrate high tunnel technology and food safety practices
- Partner with the University of Missouri Cooperative Extension to educate and train youth in gardening skills, food entrepreneurship techniques, healthy cooking, nutrition, and volunteer service

- Partner with the University of Missouri Extension to educate current and potential farmers about transitioning to specialty crop production for local consumption
- Partner with the Missouri Vegetable Growers Association to continue education and outreach through increased technological capabilities, promotion of workshops and scholarship, increased emphasis on food safety, and further collaboration activities with academic and extension organizations
- Partner with the University of Missouri to assess the impacts of row orientation and canopy management practices on Norton grapes in three regionally distinct Norton vineyards in Missouri through canopy architecture assessment and point quadrat analysis
- Partner with the University of Missouri to evaluate a commercially available paddock vacuum and elucidate the costs of this harvester with estimates on payback periods, labor reduction savings, operational costs, and returns to investment in order to help growers make informed decisions regarding the expansion or establishment of chestnut production operations
- Partner with the University of Missouri to develop and optimize a prototype of a Green June beetle monitoring trap for specialty crop producers
- Partner with the University of Missouri to determine whether plant volatiles from chestnuts can be utilized as effective attractants for the chestnut weevil
- Partner with South Central Ozarks Produce Express to address the needs of small, independent specialty crop producers in the Missouri Counties of Texas, Ripley, Howell, and Oregon through retail-readiness training and transportation
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Montana Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$249,379.89	Number of Projects:	6
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- Partner with Montana’s Alternative Energy Resources Organization to provide a conference, three tours, and an online clearinghouse of information related to growing and marketing specialty crops. Conference registration will serve as a mechanism to ensure that all participants are specialty crop producers
- Educate Montana growers and farmers' market managers on the regulations and best methods for selling at and managing a successful farmers’ markets and to cooperatively promote Montana farmers’ markets to Montanans and state visitors, encouraging their support for the markets and vendors. The Montana Department of Agriculture will provide 70% matching funds to ensure funds solely benefit eligible specialty crops
- Partner with the Lake County Community Development Corp in conjunction with the Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center to deliver an educational program in food safety that will solely assist specialty crop producers in the enhancement of their competitiveness in local markets
- Partner with Montana State University Agricultural Experiment Station to determine if movable high tunnels, in conjunction with a large-scale commercial vegetable plot, offer long-term feasibility of commercial vegetable production
- Partner with Montana State University Agricultural Experiment Station to evaluate the disease resistance and quality of chickpeas and marrowfat peas in Montana soil and climate to find suitable genotypes with favorable agronomical growth habits
- Partner with Montana State University Seed Potato Certification Program to enhance routine virus testing capabilities of the Potato Laboratory at Montana State University and determine if varietal resistance can be used to manage incidence of the virus PVA

Nebraska State Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$285,452.98	Number of Projects:	11
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- Work with the Nebraska Dry Bean Commission to host an activity in China designed to expand the market opportunities for Nebraska and U.S. dry edible bean producers by encouraging the use of Nebraska dry edible beans in the Chinese diet
- Work with several Nebraska Future Farmers of America Chapters to provide hands-on classroom educational materials and workshops in order to re-establish the youth’s connection to specialty crop agriculture, engage young farmers in the production and selling of locally grown fruits and vegetables, and aid in the expansion of specialty crop commodities sold at Nebraska’s farmers’ markets

- Partner with Nebraska Dry Bean Commission to increase the utilization of dry edible bean recipes by the Nebraska Child Nutrition Program and commercial enterprises through promotion of existing dry bean recipes
- Partner with the Community CROPS (Combining Resources, Opportunities, and People for Sustainability) to improve the capacity of socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers through the utilization of workshops, farm tours, farmer-to-farmer mentoring, and networking opportunities in the specialty crop industry
- Partner with the University of Nebraska at Lincoln to create a cost-effective model or prototype for growing horticultural crops during the winter months in Nebraska
- Partner with the University of Nebraska at Lincoln to compare the compositional profiles (total phenols/flavonoid, vitamin E/A/carotenoids) and the antioxidant capacity of damaged and whole Great Northern Beans when subjected to various shelf-life and cooking unit operations
- Partner with the University of Nebraska at Lincoln to determine the periods during potato production in which limited irrigation would least impact market yield of potatoes
- Partner with the University of Nebraska at Lincoln to evaluate the success of hybrid hazelnut propagation techniques suitable for large scale multiplication of hybrid hazelnut cultivars and prepare for future evaluations of the adaptability and durability of propagated hazelnut seedlings in commercial field production systems
- Expand an Internet Mapping Service website, which indicates the locations of Nebraska's vineyards for pesticide industry groups and individual pesticide users, to include the identification of other specialty crops including fruits, vegetables, nuts, berries, honey, and organic crops
- Partner with the University of Nebraska at Lincoln to identify and evaluate mycoflora species and mycotoxin contaminations in Nebraska hybrid hazelnuts and recommend preventive measures to control risk of mold and mycotoxin contaminations
- Partner with the University of Nebraska at Lincoln to further identify and characterize isolates collected from surveys in which isolates were identified as *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *Flaccumfaciens*, tested as pathogens on dry beans, and then evaluated on all relevant crops

Nevada Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$182,838.55	Number of Projects:	9
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- Partner with Churchill Economic Development Authority to introduce and promote Fallon Small Farm Collaborative specialty crop farmers' raw and value-added specialty crops products to area farmers' markets through tastings and sampling booths
- Partner with the Slanted Porch Saturday Farmers' Market to add a hoop house in order to increase growing and availability of specialty crops; provide shade structures and tables to qualified specialty crop growers; and promote only specialty crop commodities at the farmers' market
- Partner with the Great Basin Food Cooperative to improve farm recognition of specialty crop producers by providing signs and bios to post at the cooperative where consumers buy the produce
- Partner with the Nevada Agricultural Council to develop and broadcast a marketing campaign that promotes specialty crops in Nevada
- Partner with the Specialty Crop Institute to provide on-site training in organic specialty crop production to remote rural and tribal community farmers
- Partner with Reno Urban Gardens: Nutrition, Education, and Renewal Projects, in conjunction with an existing school garden project, to study the feasibility of using organic methods to grow blueberries in a high tunnel and determine which of several heirloom varieties of fresh dried beans may be grown as a local source of high protein food
- Partner with Doubletree Ranch to extend the season of locally grown produce and provide produce to local farmers' markets sooner through the use of hoop houses
- Fund a fulltime employee to increase participation in the Specialty Crop Block Grant; conduct outreach about the program to rural areas and disadvantaged producers; and manage the pre-award and post-grant award activities

- Provide more outreach throughout Nevada through the utilization of a Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Assistant that will assist in the organization of publications, articles, responses to program interest, conduct project site visits, obtain and organize reports, assist with Specialty Crop workshops, and educate interested applicants regarding eligibility and requirements

New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food

Amount Awarded:	\$229,319.98	Number of Projects:	8
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- Partner with the New Hampshire Farmers' Market Association (NHFMA) to modify their website in order to educate consumers on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle acquired through locally grown agricultural products and understand the economic, social, and ecological benefits of this lifestyle for themselves and farmers. A 30 percent match will be applied to cover non-specialty crop commodities
- Partner with New Hampshire Christmas Tree Promotion Board to upgrade and enhance their website and develop marketing materials, which include a brochure and DVD
- Partner with New Hampshire Fruit Growers Association to create promotional television spots that will market the fall harvest fruits
- Partner with New Hampshire Maple Producers and Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests to promote a unique interactive cultural heritage adventure to educate visitors about the culture, lore, and modern production of maple sugaring in New Hampshire
- Partner with New England Apple Association to complete and distribute a series of educational video presentations about the production, harvest, and preparation of New England apples
- Promote local specialty crop products under the “New Hampshire’s Own, A Product of Yankee Pride”. A match of 50% will be added to the project to allow for inclusion of non-specialty crops
- Partner with Kearsarge Beekeeper Association to hold pollinator workshops with an emphasis on the Top Bar Hive in an effort to provide beekeepers with a low cost alternative that promotes pollinators in a cold environment with little to no chemical intervention
- Partner with Cheshire County Conservation District Board of Supervisors to provide educational workshops highlighting innovations in specialty crop season extension and food preservation techniques that are energy efficient and appropriate to the scale of their business

New Jersey Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$656,610.86	Number of Projects:	8
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- Expand the marketing of and increase the demand for New Jersey specialty crops through the advertising and promotion of the Jersey Fresh local branding program. All recipients of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funded Jersey Fresh Matched Funds Program grants will be limited to the promotion of specialty crops defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops including floriculture
- Partner with the New Jersey Nursery & Landscape Association to conduct direct consumer advertising in order to promote the sale and use of New Jersey nursery products and related services
- Partner with Garden State Wine Growers Association to redesign and develop the New Jersey Wine County Passport Book/Wine Trail Program and promote the “Jersey Fresh Wine & Food Festival”
- Partner with the New Jersey Peach Promotion Council to develop a new marketing theme that will be the foundation of the proposed advertising and promotional campaign
- Partner with the Northeast Organic Farming Association in New Jersey to provide business planning and training solely to new farmers in the production and marketing of organic fruit and vegetable crops
- Partner with the Outer Coastal Plain Vineyard Association to identify and select optimum grape growing sites and grape varieties and develop a list of research priorities to address critical issues in optimizing high quality wine grape production
- Partner with Tri-County Cooperative Auction Market Association, which only sells vegetables, fruits, ornamental flowers and nursery stock produced in New Jersey, to create comprehensive storage and distribution efficiencies for an expanded Community Supported Agriculture operation as well as properly store and distribute nursery stock items

- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

New Mexico Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$380,581.79	Number of Projects:	11
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- Subsidize up to 30 companies/growers \$500 for costs related to receiving their Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP) certification
- Partner with New Mexico State University to provide consumers with information concerning the time-frame needed to safely package and freeze freshly roasted long green chile
- Fund a fulltime New Mexico Department of Agriculture employee to solely promote and enhance the competitiveness of all New Mexico specialty crops at distributor trade shows and national/international trade shows
- Create a website that promotes and sells various New Mexico agriculture specialty food products. Initially, only specialty crops will be used in the development of the website. Upon completion of the project, any additions or modifications to the site will be paid for with non-specialty crop funds
- Educate retailers on proper green chile roasting methods and creative merchandising concepts
- Create a pilot Farm to School project for Hispanic farmers that will establish a demonstrative specialty crop growing plot for public schools
- Partner with the New Mexico Chile Commission to exhibit at major national/international produce shows
- Partner with the New Mexico Onion Producers to participate in major trade shows and promote their products in order to capture and maintain market share
- Partner with La Montanita Coop to help with the expansion of the Regional Food-Shed Project by expanding sales of local specialty crops to Santa-Fe restaurants and increase soft-fruit producers' profitability by improving waste-stream management and B-grade fruit product development
- Partner with Rio Grande Community Farm to add a cold storage unit solely to be used for specialty crops in order to provide fresh and safe produce to Albuquerque Public Schools as well as wholesale and retail customers
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

Amount Awarded:	\$1,098,809.97	Number of Projects:	12
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- Develop an interactive online directory of farms, farm products, and related information that will be utilized by a growing number of consumers and commercial buyers as well as specialty crop producers and other food and agricultural product marketers. Provide 36% state matching funds to allow inclusion of non-specialty crop businesses in the directory. The Department will document the appropriate distribution of funds by tracking and maintaining the appropriate percentage of participating specialty crop and non-specialty crop producers
- Partner with Cornell University to determine the content of healthful components (phenolic compounds, carotenoids, and antioxidant capacity) present in New York peaches and apricots to improve their marketability through quantitative values that can be used in labels and promotional materials and develop at least 3 value-added shelf-stable products from peaches and apricots appropriate for production in New York
- Partner with Cornell University to facilitate on-farm demonstrations, one on one consulting, evaluation of new equipment designs, and publication of reduced tillage (RT) grower experiences to help vegetable growers carefully assess when and where RT systems make sense for their conventional and organic vegetable farms
- Partner with Cornell University to disseminate information to vegetable growers concerning the prevention of contamination of clean fields and the management of fields contaminated with *P. capsici*; identify breeding lines and continue development of plant varieties that have tolerance to the pathogen; and demonstrate to growers cultural control strategies (mulches, bed height, cover crops) that would reduce disease severity

- Partner with Cornell University to determine the role of early and late season scion infections on the development of rootstock infection; determine the role of direct infection of rootstocks via borer injury and; determine the effect of water status of trees on susceptibility to rootstock infection. Develop recommendations for reducing rootstock blight, including control of suckers, which is a known avenue for fire blight entry
- Partner with Cornell University to identify the sources of inoculums for powdery mildew in New York, identify the critical periods for infection of strawberries by the pathogen, and develop biologically-based disease management recommendations
- Partner with Cornell University to enable development of snap bean varieties with resistance to multiple viruses and provide a better understanding of virus accumulation/distribution in plants leading to yield-losses and the interactions/cross resistance that may result from the combination of the resistance to bean yellow mosaic virus and clover yellow vein virus into snap beans selected for resistance to cucumber mosaic virus
- Partner with Cornell University to develop and evaluate growers' implementation of improved IPM on New York State (NYS) Christmas tree farms; extend science based information on IPM to a wider group of NYS Christmas tree growers through on-farm Open Houses and industry presentations; and create an education plan based on real-world experiences and data to continue the increase in use of IPM tools in the NYS Christmas tree industry
- Partner with Cornell University to determine whether there are differential responses *B. squamosa* isolates from around the State to Botrytis leafblight (BLB) resistant or BLB tolerant onions; determine the effect of heterozygous vs. homozygous BLB resistance or of BLB tolerance on degree of control across locations and production systems; determine, under traditional and organic production systems, the potential risk from other fruit/foliar diseases when chemical sprays are reduced due to the availability of BLB resistance; and combine the results from the first three objectives to create a comprehensive integrated pest management (IPM) disease control strategy, and disseminate this widely to extension agents and growers
- Partner with Johnson's Honeybee Farm to demonstrate a system whereby Northeast beekeepers can produce bees for restocking hives, make mite-resistant bees more available to beekeepers, and begin a cooperative program among a group of beekeepers working with a bee breeder and the New York State Bee Inspection Service to develop bees more resistant to *Nosema ceranae*
- Partner with Cornell University to determine the impact of three annual cover crops (annual rye grass, buckwheat, rosette-forming turnips) planted directly under the vine on production costs, vine size, and wine quality; determine the impact of root pruning on production costs, vine size, and wine quality; and disseminate the results to local growers so that at project end at least five New York wine grape growers experiment with one of the root zone management practices
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Amount Awarded:	\$1,092,487.64	Number of Projects:	29
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- Partner with North Carolina State University to integrate the North Carolina tomato program by developing food safety programs that can be implemented with low cost technology by small acreage producers, establish standard values for antioxidants in North Carolina tomato varieties, increase speed of germplasm selection for high antioxidant content and TMV resistance by adapting molecular markers into breeding protocols
- Partner with the Surry County Government to provide mid-size farmers with educational training in post-harvest handling and Good Agricultural Practices and provide the marketing and distribution system for area institutions to source locally grown specialty crops
- Partner with the North Carolina Sweet Potato Commission Foundation to develop and implement an industry-driven traceability program, establish baseline data for crop protection chemicals used on sweet potatoes, rollout the North Carolina Sweet Potato Crisis Communication plan, and implement a tiered food safety program
- Partner with the North Carolina Fresh Produce Safety Task Force to address the skills, preparation, and effectiveness of crisis management and communications plan for specialty crop industries across North Carolina
- Partner with Madison Family Farms to coordinate production of specialty crops to allow Madison County and other area farmers to participate in the North Carolina Department of Agriculture Farm to School Program, develop a direct marketing advertising campaign, and provide on-farm Good Agricultural Practices training
- Partner with the North Carolina Christmas Tree Association to create stable and sustainable markets for North Carolina's Christmas tree growers by expanding and augmenting the association's marketing activities

- Partner with the North Carolina Watermelon Association to promote North Carolina watermelons to North Carolina consumers and produce buyers through a coordinated promotional campaign
- Partner with the North Carolina Flower Growers' Association to promote locally grown floriculture plants to targeted consumers through a mixed media promotional campaign with the intent of driving more traffic to the Association internet website and increasing the sales of spring flowering and holiday plant sales
- Design and place North Carolina billboard banners on ten North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Food Distribution tractor trailers to enhance consumer awareness of the variety and availability of North Carolina specialty crops
- Partner with the North Carolina Sweet Potato Commission to conduct an in-store promotional campaign to raise awareness and usage of North Carolina sweet potatoes in Western Europe
- Partner with the Johnston County Nurseryman Marketing Association to provide and market a website, which includes a searchable and dynamic plant database for green industry professionals to gain knowledge of nursery crops grown in North Carolina
- Partner with the North Carolina Greenhouse Vegetable Growers Association to conduct a promotion and marketing campaign to increase the visibility of greenhouse farms and the industry as a whole
- Partner with the North Carolina Vegetable Growers Association to conduct a mixed media consumer awareness campaign to build awareness of local produce and drive traffic to the NC Farm Fresh website
- Partner with the North Carolina Sod Producers Association to expand and provide increased continuity of North Carolina sod producers' current consumer awareness campaigns, consumer educational products, and education materials suitable for distribution by individual producers
- Survey certified organic farms and farms that produce organic specialty crop to identify the scope of unique crops and provide farmers with business management and marketing information about North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services programs and website
- Partner with the North Carolina Green Industry Council to promote the efficient use of water to consumers through a media campaign, which will also direct them to an existing website for more information, and develop a new website to help education green industry professionals on water efficiency in the landscape
- Partner with the North Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association to organize and execute three days of multi-track education seminars for green industry professionals at the 2010 Green & Growin' trade shows
- Partner with the North Carolina Potato Association to promote new potato variety development that will enable North Carolina's potato marketing and breeding teams to work more closely together so that as new conventional and specialty-type potato varieties are evaluated and developed, their potential can be realized and commercialized
- Partner with the North Carolina Strawberry Association to "brand" locally produced North Carolina strawberries, make use of new communication technologies, and provide marketing tools to individual growers as partners in this endeavor
- Partner with the WC Breeze Family Farm Extension & Research Center to support training and field activities for farmers in a 22-county area in the North Carolina Piedmont including sustainable soil and water management, insect, disease, and weed management, fruit and berry applied research, and business planning
- Partner with North Carolina State University to provide the North Carolina nursery industry with a new potting substrate based on renewable cotton stalks
- Partner with North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University to test various strains of shiitake mushrooms to determine best-producing strains and the technical problems associated with the intensive (indoor) production system
- Partner with North Carolina State University to develop an organic research program for the western North Carolina research stations to support existing producers or new farmers getting into organic production
- Partner with North Carolina State University to identify rootstocks for profitable and sustainable use in North Carolina apple orchards while minimizing pesticide inputs; evaluate peach rootstocks and soil management strategies to minimize the potential for peach tree short life; and develop commercial recommendations for growers of apples and peaches on rootstock selection and preplant strategies
- Partner with North Carolina State University and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University to develop high quality raspberry cultivars that can be grown in the southern U.S. that are suitable for both local sales and commercial shipping

- Partner with North Carolina State University to clarify the host-insect interactions of balsam woolly adelgid as part of an integrated pest management strategy for Christmas trees
- Develop a tracking system to assist North Carolina’s registered nurseries and garden centers in listing plant acquisitions as currently required in Nursery Certification Regulations
- Partner with Operation Spring Plant, an organization made up of African-American and limited resource farmers and concerned urban citizens from Region K and surrounding counties of North Carolina, to develop infrastructure to wash, wax, and package specialty crops grown in North Carolina
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

North Dakota Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$523,515.58	Number of Projects:	10
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- Partner with the Northern Pulse Growers Association to improve market access and development programs for pulse crops grown in North Dakota, Montana, and South Dakota by developing food service product recipes, health & nutrition promotional materials, food service industry guide, sensory evaluation panels, and public relations activities
- Extend the season in three active school lunch programs by leasing the mobile food processor unit, the result of a prior local foods grant study, to preserve produce for use in winter months; host a local foods education seminar to bring fruit and vegetable producers together during the winter to discuss diversifying crops, season extension, and other elements of local foods centering on specialty crops; networking more small school systems with local specialty crop producers; and produce videos to be used to put “a face to the specialty crop farmer” in local grocery stores, restaurants, school and college lunch rooms, web-based promotions, and farmers markets
- Partner with the North Dakota Farmers Market and Growers Association, Inc. to: collect valuable information on fruit and vegetable producers in order for the Association to better serve the producers needs through education and promotional efforts; provide a mini-grant marketing program to local organized farmers markets solely for the purpose to increase awareness of the availability of local fruits and vegetables at those farmers markets; and provide an opportunity for students in North Dakota schools to learn about the production and marketing of vegetables through a school garden grant program
- Partner with the Northharvest Bean Growers Association and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to advance the health promotion and research strategy of the Northharvest Bean Growers Association through (a) increased communication efforts on the health benefits of dry beans to health professionals; (b) the summary of existing scientific research to prepare a health-related statement to assist the trade and consumers in understanding the health benefits of dry beans; and (c) the expansion of current basic research in discovery and quantification of health benefits of dry beans
- Partner with North Dakota State University to evaluate 60 hardy rose varieties for cut flower production characteristics
- Partner with the North Dakota Grape Growers to produce one red and one white wine grape hybrid with hardiness to -40 degrees Fahrenheit and vinifera flavor characteristics
- Partner with North Dakota State University, Carrington Research Center to develop new markets that will increase the demand of field pea and field pea component feed products by determining what causes the improvement in eating satisfaction of beef
- Partner with the National Sunflower Association to develop genetic rust resistance in confection sunflower hybrids
- Partner with Northern Plains Potato Growers Association to develop new potato varieties that are well adapted to the region and resistant to *Verticillium dahliae*
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Lands and Natural Resources

Amount Awarded:	\$121,669.23	Number of Projects:	7
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- Develop a multi-media campaign video to provide for a wider range of outreach by airing the end product of the video production in local television network to educate and inform the consumers of the benefits of choosing and purchasing locally grown specialty crops

- Hold semi-annual and annual conference amongst local specialty crop producers, consumers and buyers to develop a market network, and develop effective specialty crop programs
- Partner with local television production to develop cooking shows that promote the nutritional value of the specialty crops
- Conduct meetings on other islands with specialty crop stakeholders and farmers to discuss specialty crop issues, problems, and evaluate the program's implementation and effectiveness, as well as meet with different specialty crop buyers to establish market opportunity in Guam
- Contract with a website developer to create a Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands specialty crop web page containing information about specialty crop producer and buyer contact information, type of specialty crops grown, seasonal yielding, availability, and location
- Partner with the public and private school system to get youth involved in the production of specialty crops through education about good agriculture practices, propagation, planting, irrigation, cultivating, harvesting, and basic marketing of specialty crops
- Provide geospatial map information to existing crop producers, potential crop producers, buyers and consumers to provide geospatial data layer on location of farmers, the farm sizes, soil types and characteristics, slope, and elevation, and rainfall through the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) software

Ohio Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$809,199.45	Number of Projects:	18
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- Partner with Ohio Produce Growers and Marketers Association to develop a three-tiered statewide food safety standard for a produce marketing agreement designed to represent the unique geographic nature, diverse culture, and specialty crops in Ohio
- Partner with the Agroecosystems Management Program at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center of The Ohio State University to provide answers for how specialty crop farmers and institutions in Ohio can improve their prospects for doing business together by conducting a detailed survey of institutional food service providers, primarily focused on many private and public institutions of higher education within Ohio
- Partner with the Appalachian Center for Economic Networks to develop and scale a financially-sustainable membership association to include the marketing and promotion of farm fresh and “fresh cut” specialty crops through collaborative branding campaigns and educate Appalachia Ohio farmers and organic growers of fresh fruits and vegetables on the market opportunities, product development, and processing technologies to package “fresh cut,” “fresh packed” or frozen food institutional packs
- Partner with Mid-Ohio Food Bank to identify specialty food crops that can serve local ethnic communities (Somali, Latino, and Russian) in and around Columbus, Ohio. Also, help the members of these ethnic communities maintain healthy diets and teach them how to prepare the dishes they are familiar with using traditional and fresh produce
- Partner with the Ohio Grape Industries Committee to extend Ohio Wine TV, an online virtual wine tasting/tour program to include regional-based videos
- Partner with the Ohio Wine Producers Association to support meetings to serve as a networking and building opportunity for long established wineries and for new wineries interested in launching a business
- Partner with The Ohio State University to determine the feasibility of developing a specialty crop marketing cooperative (or cooperatives) by conducting a market analysis and developing draft business plans
- Partner with the Ohio Department of Education to increase child and adult knowledge and consumption of specialty crops in addition to opening up new markets for specialty crop producers through Ohio schools
- Partner with the Ohio Produce Growers and Markets Association to teach and encourage Ohio vegetable and fruit growers to implement practices in their operations that will minimize or eliminate their potential to source fresh produce-borne disease organisms and to help them to maintain or increase their customer base in preparation of a development of a state produce agreement
- Partner with the Center for Innovative Food Technology to identify the unique aspects of urban production that increase the chances of potential introduction of harmful microorganisms and develop a training program to educate the specialty crop growers and organizations actively pursuing food production on Good Agricultural Practices
- Partner with The Ohio State University to provide continuing education session for the local delivery of focused, in depth training in safe practices for production of fresh fruits and vegetables

- Partner with The Ohio State University to develop a new small fruit industry for commercial ribes production in Ohio; develop sustainable production practices directly related to Ohio growing conditions; educate new currant and gooseberry (ribes) growers about marketing and production plans for production; and educate growers about specific varieties, growing conditions that could potentially influence production, pest management practices, and phenology data
- Partner with The Ohio State University to provide scientific data in support of food safety recommendations specific for Ohio vegetable producers
- Partner with The Ohio State University to resolve the persistent problem of weed control by conducting applied research that will lead to registration of new weed control technologies for brambles
- Partner with the Innovative Farmers of Ohio to explore the production of pumpkin seed as a healthy, locally grown, processed, and marketed snack food
- Partner with the Midwest Apple Foundation to provide qualified local assistance to growers at their plantings to evaluate 15,000 seedling apple trees, use grower and marketer assistance to evaluate the top 1%, and propagate and distribute the top 0.5% for advanced testing
- Partner with Wooster Local Foods Cooperative to establish an online ordering system and central distribution location to market and order products, handle, sort, store, and distribute vegetables, fruits, nuts, and other specialty crops between the times they are delivered until they are picked up by the buyers year-round
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry

Amount Awarded:

\$333,507.33

Number of Projects:

11

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- Initiate a nutritional program that places emphasis on a locally available fruit or vegetable each month for the state of Oklahoma and provide posters, educational materials, and hands-on demonstrations in selected pilot communities concerning the cultivation, nutritional value, selection, and preparation of the selected specialty crop
 - Continue a statewide advertisement campaign through funding local promotional grants, Ok Grown tote bags, and advertisements to increase awareness of Oklahoma's specialty crops in order to stimulate supply of these commodities and the general public's demand for them
 - Partner with Kerr Center to conduct field trials of heritage and contemporary sweet potato varieties, demonstrations of growing and harvesting methods, production and distribution of educational materials, and the facilitation of a field day event to promote the production, marketing, and consumption of sweet potatoes in Eastern Oklahoma through the use of sustainable and organic practices
 - Partner with Oklahoma State University to improve production management practices and increase overall knowledge of the Oklahoma grape growers through the development of a workbook that chronicles recordkeeping practices, other grape production managerial practices, and the incorporates current and future research outcomes
 - Partner with the Caddo Kiowa Technology Center to encourage specialty crop growers to utilize crop rotation methods to maximize efficiency of fertilizer expenditure across rotations, thereby increasing their overall farm profitability
 - Partner with Oklahoma State University to perform variety trials of several leafy green crops in order to determine the varieties that perform best in hoop house and will have the highest potential for profitability for fresh producers in Oklahoma
 - Partner with the Noble Foundation to determine if the development of hoop house strawberry crops established from fresh dug strawberry plants can be as productive and/or as profitable as a crop established from plug plants
 - Partner with Om Gardens and Mushroom Planet to research ways to limit or even eliminate some of the expensive equipment, materials, and energy use that make year-round mushroom farming so difficult for the start-up cultivator
 - Partner with Oklahoma State University to provide the necessary research to determine how sweet corn stands can be promoted during the summer months; to elucidate planting dates that will provide an extended harvest period during the fall; and to determine the level of supplementary pest control necessary to produce ears that will meet school standards
 - Fund participation in a program that allows small (less than 40 acres), limited resource specialty crop farmers to apply for a plasticulture program, assist in the installation of up to one acre of plasticulture, fund land preparation, animal depredation, wildlife fencing, fertilizer, scales, irrigation systems, plants, and plastic

- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Oregon Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$1,673,704.49	Number of Projects:	30
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- Implement a good agricultural practices cost reduction program that rewards producers for participating in training and sharing information across the industry and work with socially disadvantaged and small and beginning farmers to identify cost reduction program candidates and coordinate on-farm training of other new-to-certification individuals with those pilot participants
- Partner with Northwest Food Processors Association and the Northwest Food Processors Education Research Institute to generate data on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) potential to speed processor response to food safety events by identifying the hardware and software components of an effective RFID traceability system, installing pilot RFID systems in two representative specialty crop processing plants, and assessing the real-world efficacy of RFID traceability systems
- Determine the ability of peroxyacetic acid, sodium hypochlorite, and acidified sodium chlorite, to produce at least a 4-log reduction of Salmonella and E. coli O157:H7 on in-shell hazelnuts, using pathogen surrogates
- Conduct outreach to raise awareness of food safety training amongst berry growers and provide a pilot food safety training program
- Work with experienced export companies to position quality Oregon specialty crops, specifically targeting potatoes, onions, pears, cherries, berries, hazelnuts, and nursery products in Russia, Southeast Asia, India, and the Middle East by offering to subsidize sample and product introduction shipments; thus, helping to offset the initial risk to the shipper and buyer in these early markets
- Conduct a trade development mission to Taiwan, the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Macau to introduce Oregon and Washington potatoes through specialty product cooking demonstrations and buyer meetings
- Achieve International Organization for Standardization (ISO) accreditation for the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Laboratory Services Division to provide voluntary certification services to potatoes, onions, blueberries, cherries, and pears
- Bring several Oregon specialty crop producers and exporters together with the Oregon Department of Agriculture to execute a trade mission and series of promotional events in Japan, China, and Hong Kong in March, 2010. Activities will include an Oregon booth at the FoodEx trade show in Japan, followed by targeted trade events in Hong Kong and China proper, including, but not limited to: product showcases, trade tastings, educational seminars, and product showcases
- Assist a neighborhood association in Portland, Oregon to establish a community garden in an economically-challenged area to allow residents to grow their own fresh produce and use the garden as a demonstration site to educate urban consumer about good agricultural practices and good handling practices
- Produce, print, and distribute/disseminate materials featuring Oregon's fruits and berries to draw attention to the high quality of Oregon's fruits and berries and increase the demand for the wide range of products and commodities for value-added goods provided by growers and processors
- Partner with China Network LLC to introduce Oregon specialty crop products to importers/distributors and support export sales of the products through in-store retail promotions at targeted retailers in Hong Kong and Shenzhen
- Partner with Ecotrust and the Washington Department of Agriculture to provide specialty crop producers a simple way to provide general information about their business and market themselves, their stories, and their products with FoodHub; provide food buyers a simple way to provide general information about what they typically buy (allowing specialty crop producers to do market research), access information about specialty crop producers, and order specialty crops based on specific requirements (e.g. certification, proximity, distribution model, and price); diversify and create new market opportunities for specialty crop producers by increasing the number and types of food buyers purchasing their products; and increase specialty crop producers' total volume or dollar value of sales. Ecotrust will ensure that Oregon's specialty crop funds are isolated and applied only to activities benefitting specialty crop producers through the following tracking and accountability procedures: 1) analytical and reporting features of FoodHub software allowing registered users to be segmented by crop type bought or sold; 2) sophisticated organizational accounting practices which require the coding of all revenue and expenses; and 3) discrete work plans and activities specific to specialty crop promotion

- Partner with the Oregon Department of Education to increase access to local fruits and vegetables in school cafeterias and in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program by developing an online school foodservice toolkit with recipes and nutrition analysis, menu examples, nutrition facts, procurement guidance, and resources for promoting a minimum of nine local fruits and vegetables in school cafeterias
- Partner with the Oregon Potato Commission to participate with the Oregon Director of Agriculture Trade Mission to the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Macau to focus on multi-disciplinary methods involving expert potato variety personnel, an executive chef, potato exporters, written materials, and outreach seminars that will enhance the competitiveness of the Pacific Northwest potato industry
- Partner with the Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission, Oregon Strawberry Commission, and the US Highbush Blueberry Council to launch an innovative program to create a locally produced berry product, produce educational materials on berries and health to use in school curriculum available online or by mail, and market the berry product to schools at local and national school nutrition conferences
- Partner with the Oregon Seed Council to gather data to identify what the traditional domestic markets for fine turf seed have been, assess the possibility of reversing the trend of declining domestic demand for fine turf seed, develop a strategic marketing plan to increase the domestic demand for fine turf seed, and use the information to communicate with both Oregon seed growers and dealers about the production levels required to meet the available demand
- Partner with Oregon State University, North Willamette Research and Extension Center to develop a set of certification standards with inspection control points to meet the needs for third party certification in Oregon and Washington, offer a mechanism to train farm owners/managers in the voluntary development of their own sustainability plans that in turn will allow for inspections and certification, and provide a mechanism to train and certify field workers in pest and disease scouting/IPM practices in Spanish
- Support the promotion of Oregon blueberry sales in a hypermarket chain, Hypercity, for a three-week period during the season
- Assist the blueberry industry in offsetting the costs associated with new requirements to ship fresh blueberries from Oregon directly to South Korea through survey work, trapping, inspection, and certification administration work
- Collaborate with the Oregon County Fair Commission and Oregon Fairs Association to develop visual tools to help tell the story of Oregon's specialty crop industry at Oregon's 36 county fairs
- Expand the successful Oregon Harvest for Schools toolkit through the creation of four additional months of materials, which will include Spanish translated family newsletter and farmer profiles
- Implement a multi-platform television, print, and online campaign designed to motivate parents and caregivers of school-aged children to purchase, prepare, and consume Oregon specialty crops
- Partner with the Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission to conduct a Phase I study of the effects of high anthocyanin exposure achieved through daily consumption of 3 cups of sweet cherries on inflammation as surrogate markers of prostate health to demonstrate a health benefit, which will result in increased consumption as well as furthering producers capability to develop alternative sweet cherry products to promote regular consumption
- Develop and implement a voluntary program for producers to obtain tests of chemical residue levels in up to five targeted specialty crops: onions, potatoes, blueberries, cherries, and pears, which will develop chemical residue screens to meet maximum residue level requirements for targeted export markets as well as private retail and brokerage requirements
- Partner with Blue Mountain Horticultural Society to enable area wide mating disruption, predict insect and disease life cycles accurately, enable accurate timing of soft chemical sprays, reduce frequencies of chemical sprays, minimize effects of untended backyard fruit trees and abandoned orchards, and attempt to eliminate apple maggot from Pendleton
- Partner with Certified Onions Inc. to provide a low cost and effective system of third party certification (through the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Laboratory Services) of both field and inventoried onions for designated pesticide residues and the presence of undesired pathogens
- Partner with Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers to provide cost-sharing to growers for mating disruption dispensers and conduct an intensive monitoring program for codling moth supporting threshold-based pest management decision making
- Partner with the Oregon Association of Nurseries to identify and organize existing scientific data around the systems approach and utilize Pacific Northwest researchers and industry production and pest control staff to develop a systems approach manual that addresses procurement and propagation of clean stock that includes best management practices for nursery operations

- Partner with the Oregon Hop Commission to establish on-farm research to quantify and document the value of integrated pest management (IPM) approaches for priority pests and diseases, conduct targeted marketing and outreach with U.S. brewers that currently utilize imported hops, and engage producers and extend results through established public-private partnerships
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$938,784.21	Number of Projects:	16
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- Partner with the American Mushroom Institute to provide additional education and training materials focusing on documentation required for procedures and policies under the Mushroom Good Agricultural Practices (MGAP); coordinate efforts with Penn State faculty, U.S. Department of Agriculture staff, food safety experts, and mushroom growers to update the December 2008 edition of the MGAP Standards and Guidelines document; and establish the MGAP Notification Network to keep all mushroom growers, packers, shippers, and suppliers updated with the latest food safety information
- Provide cost-share incentives for specialty crop farmers that pass a Federal/State Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) audit and provide GAP training on the farm as well as worker trainings
- Partner with Penn State University to conduct an evaluation of microbial food safety risks associated with the use of surface water intended for irrigation of specialty crops in Pennsylvania and develop and validate the accuracy of a simple, economical procedure in which farmers can use to submit samples to offsite water testing laboratories
- Enhance the capability of disease diagnosis and monitoring of high-risk pathogens threatening multiple specialty crops so that the production and marketing of specialty crops is adequately protected by organizing accumulated knowledge in a web accessible and searchable format
- Partner with the Pennsylvania Winery Association to improve the quality of Pennsylvania wines through training and testing by the PA Wine Quality Initiative and by providing educational support for the wine industry
- Partner with the National Grape Cooperative to implement a sustainable viticulture program that will reduce higher-risk production practices, increase market demand, reduce hazards impacting worker health and safety, and improve profitability
- Partner with the Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Association to develop a manual and certification for the use of landscape professionals in local governments, commercial properties, and those serving residential properties that will guide them in the design, installation, and maintenance of green infrastructure such as rain gardens, bioswales, meadows, and green roofs
- Provide fresh, locally grown specialty crops to WIC recipients and low income senior citizens, while expanding the number of outlets, the awareness, as well as the use of and sales at farm markets and farm stands to endorse positive behavior for eating more nutritious food to reduce the incidence of hunger and under nutrition in Pennsylvania. Project funds will be monitored to ensure that all funding solely enhances the competitiveness of eligible specialty crops
- Partner with Fay-Penn Economic Development Council to promote and improve the access to locally grown fruits and vegetables and processed produce for distribution to local restaurants, local farmers markets, community supported agricultural farms, and area public schools. Project funds will be monitored to ensure that all funding solely enhances the competitiveness of eligible specialty crops
- Partner with the Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program to rebuild their current website, www.paveggies.org, to serve as a central location for information about Pennsylvania vegetables – availability, recipes for use, nutritional value, and retail and wholesale markets
- Partner with the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association to enhance their database and website as well as develop an online stock guide for use by nursery stock and floriculture growers and wholesalers in Pennsylvania
- Expand the state branding program, PA Preferred, to include retail promotion initiative, school foodservice pilot program, culinary events, and development of a specialty crop website
- Partner with the Pennsylvania Apple Marketing Program to increase consumer awareness of Pennsylvania Farm Markets and promote Pennsylvania Apples along with other Pennsylvania Preferred specialty crops by utilizing radio and outdoor advertising
- Evaluate currently labeled tomato biological disease controls plus those nearing final labeling in order to develop effective recommendations for organic and conventional growers

- Partner with several organizations in Philadelphia to support development of five high tunnels and provide training on the production and operation of these high tunnels on under used parcels of land in Philadelphia to produce and market nutritious fruits and vegetables year around while promoting economic development, workforce training, and youth empowerment
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Departamento de Agricultura de Puerto Rico

Amount Awarded:	\$363,961.04	Number of Projects:	3
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- Promote specialty crops at international, local trade shows, as well as through television and print advertisements. To ensure that funds solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops, the Department of Agriculture will devise a branding strategy that solely targets eligible specialty crops
- Increase specialty crop farmers’ knowledge in organic agriculture technical aspects, develop a trained organic producers’ certification process, and establish a consumer recognized program for labeling organic produce
- Obtain a professionally executed appraisal of consumer attitudes and preferences as related to purchase decision-making in specialty crop product lines

Rhode Island Division of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$202,792.90	Number of Projects:	10
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- Partner with the Rhode Island Farm Bureau to develop a "buy local" radio advertising campaign that will only promote specialty crops
- Partner with the Kids First Group to further the development of the statewide Farm to School Program that increases the amount of locally grown, fresh produce offered at local schools
- Partner with Farm Fresh Rhode Island, a Brown University community group, to analyze Market Mobile's market share in the context of Rhode Island's wholesale market for specialty crops and report on the areas where Market Mobile could enhance the reach of local foods
- Continue to expand on Rhode Island's specialty crop promotional activities, which include “Rhode Island Grown Get Fresh Buy Local” buy local initiative by conducting produce preparation demonstrations featuring local celebrity chefs at all RI farmers market and participating roadside stands, update its RI Agricultural Display, continue marketing projects with Harvest New England, enhance the marketing program by making point of purchase advertising material available to farmers, and introduce EBT Banking to Farmers Markets to allow USDA Food Stamp recipients to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. Matching funds will be used to cover non-specialty crop commodities and producers
- Partner with the Rhode Island Land Trust to survey Rhode Island's land trusts to document: the number of acres of farmland they protect; how these protected lands are currently cultivated and managed; barriers that prevent land trusts from keeping/putting this land in production; and opportunities for increasing production of fruits, berries, vegetables, and other specialty crops on protected farmland
- Partner with the Norman Bird Sanctuary to educate children to grow vegetables for themselves and to illustrate the importance of food production in life
- Partner with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Rhode Island to provide training in the use of organic production techniques to specialty crop farmers in Rhode Island
- Partner with the College of Environment & Life Science at the University of Rhode Island to conduct field trials of heirloom tomato varieties as well as provide demonstrations concerning organic farming techniques for local farmers
- Partner with the African Alliance of Rhode Island to establish community gardens for ethnic specialty crops that benefit African refugees and immigrants living in Rhode Island
- Partner with the Methodist Community Gardens to extend their planting season in order to enable them to offer fresh vegetables to the needy in the local community

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$402,462.32

Number of Projects:

21

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- Provide cost-share assistance to specialty crop firms to help defray the cost of a first-time Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices audit
 - Partner with the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation to conduct a feasibility study of establishing a SC Store at the new SC State Farmers' Market that would sell Certified SC Grown specialty crops
 - Partner with Carolina AgriSolutions Growers Association to enhance the muscadine grape business by working on standards for the industry, providing a conference on value added commodities, creating new marketing strategies, provide technical assistance to new and existing growers, and look at the feasibility of developing a juice processing facility
 - Partner with the South Carolina Peach Council to upgrade the organization's website to make it more user-friendly and provide additional information to assist in marketing the industry
 - Partner with the South Carolina Peach Council and the Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Association to co-sponsor the 2011 Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference Educational Series, which offers informative workshops, classes, and demonstrations that cover specific production training, pest management information, and marketing updates
 - Partner with the South Carolina Watermelon Association to provide a professionally designed and produced banner for promotional events
 - Partner with the South Carolina Christmas Tree Association to upgrade the Association's website and produce brochures and visuals to use at promotional events
 - Partner with Freewoods Foundation to sponsor a "Veggie Fest" that will use vegetables produced by local growers in nutrition demonstrations at the Freewoods farmers' market
 - Partner with the South Carolina Association of Farmers' Markets to provide training and materials solely focused on specialty crops for community based farmers' market managers
 - Provide tools to promote and facilitate sales of South Carolina specialty products through trade shows and seek niche market opportunities for smaller volume specialty crops
 - Develop and print point of purchase materials and signage for use at industry events, retail promotions, focal Farmers Markets, and roadside markets to promote fresh fruits and vegetables grown in South Carolina
 - Fund advertising services in order to promote increased consumer traffic at three spring plant and flower shows in order to gain visibility and make direct product sales to consumers
 - Provide support for small community-based farmers' markets to solely promote eligible specialty crops
 - Partner with the Clemson University to provide training in Good Agricultural Practices for South Carolina Extension Agents and other agricultural professionals who in turn will be able to train producers of specialty crops in proper fresh produce food safety and handling practices
 - Partner with the South Carolina Fruit, Vegetable & Specialty Crop Association to educate minority growers on the latest marketing and food safety issues and provide information on good agricultural practices as well as the process to become certified through a training series
 - Partner with Clemson University to research the modification of the existing Darwin 300 mechanical bloom thinner to enhance mobility, efficiency, safety, and ease of use in peach production
 - Partner with Clemson University to develop methods to deliver necessary soil fertility levels for organic production of broccoli
 - Partner with Clemson University to test demonstrate varieties of native and exotic fruits for commercial production in the Piedmont, Sandhills, and Coastal Plain of South Carolina
 - Partner with Clemson University to conduct research that focuses on ascertaining alternatives to Pristine as a fungicide that battles the disease gummy stem blight in watermelons
 - Partner with Clemson University to find and test Brassicas varieties (mustard and turnip greens) that have been identified as having some resistance to bacterial leaf spot that can be grown successfully in South Carolina
 - Partner with the Carolina Blueberries Group to look at the feasibility of new production techniques that will provide early production of blueberries

South Dakota Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$185,811.14

Number of Projects:

18

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- Partner with Dakota Rural Action to increase consumer awareness and support for local specialty crops through distribution of the South Dakota Local Foods Directory and create a marketing infrastructure to increase local purchase through an online food cooperative. Matching funds will support the 50 percent of the local food guide that support non-specialty crop producers and who market their non-specialty crop products through the online food cooperative
 - Partner with Woodsocket Future Farmers of America Chapter to create educational material focusing on the production and health benefits of watermelons and muskmelons, conduct research to expand the storage life of Sanborn County melons, disseminate the information, and provide retailers with grower contact information
 - Partner with South Dakota Department of Health to update their brochure highlighting the fruits and vegetables grown in-season, feature SD grown fruits and vegetables on the HealthySD.gov website, and develop fruit and vegetable advertisements
 - Develop a web-based information clearinghouse that will encompass all South Dakota specific regulations, direct marketing, distribution, and promotion of specialty crop and value-added products. Funds will solely support eligible specialty crops and be allocated based on the percentage of information that pertains to specialty crop production
 - Establish an event that will feature a wine pavilion to promote South Dakota wines as well as a wine garden that will demonstrate growing techniques
 - Collaborate with ten farmers' markets across South Dakota to promote farmers' markets and collect pricing data on specialty crops at the markets
 - Partner with Capital City Farmers' Market to provide South Dakota libraries and cooperative extension offices with books geared to providing information to current specialty crop producers on improving their businesses and providing information and guidance to potential producers
 - Partner with South Dakota University Foundation, Agriculture Museum to develop a grape and wine exhibition that encompasses the geographical, social, and agricultural history of grapevine origin, grape production, wine industry development, and current grapevine improvements
 - Partner with South Dakota State University through the Great After School Place Summer Program to provide youth the opportunity to grow a variety of vegetable while learning about each crop's nutritional information
 - Partner with Time at the Table, Inc. to encourage a communal effort to provide the local food pantry with fresh fruit and vegetables, canning harvest to minimize waste and educate the next generation on farm to plate concepts through gardening, canning, and cooking classes
 - Partner with Thelma Deffenbaugh to develop the economic potential of river break woodlands through demonstration trials of hazelnut and ginseng
 - Partner with Chateau Sylvania Vineyard and Winery to provide a sheltering mechanism and groundwater geothermal heat system to render the growing of vitis vinifera grape economically viable in cold weather climates
 - Partner with South Dakota State University to study the beneficial value of cultivated medicinal plants as compared to wild-harvested medicinal plants
 - Partner with Dakota Hops to develop a hop piker/harvester, a drying system, and packaging process for small scale producers
 - Partner with George Thomas Stepp to increase production of organic Super Berries, aronia, saskatoons, raspberries, elderberries, currents and gooseberries; research and test value-added products; and design organic berry producers interactive website to network, share methods, growing tips, and organic opportunities
 - Partner with Happy Hydros LLC who will expand their product line from hydroponic tomatoes to include hydroponic romaine lettuce and cucumbers
 - Provide financial incentives to beginning farmers that have proven to be successful, commercially viable demonstration specialty crop projects
 - Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$455,621.73

Number of Projects:

9

- Partner with Grow Farms to implement a traceback system for each produce item shipped by participating growers in order to identify the originating producer, the day it was packed, and how the produce moved through the market channel
- Continue to partner with the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation to conduct a statewide buy local branding program, produce local food resource guides, conduct advertising, and distribute educational/promotional materials that solely benefit specialty crop commodities and producers
- Partner with the Tennessee Nursery & Landscape Association to promote active growers through offering a cost-share for grower trade show booths and provide buyers guide listings
- Partner with Middle Tennessee Nursery Association to showcase the quality of local nursery products at tradeshow and increase awareness of the green industry including hard goods, field and container production, supplies, and ornamental crops
- Partner with the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County to market a wholesale produce and nursery product auction at Nashville's Farmers' Market during the growing season
- Partner with Cornell University to objectively measure the quality of irrigation water used on vegetable farms in Tennessee in order to help shape future irrigation water standards, improve on-farm risk assessment, provide strategies for implementing a water testing program, aid in interpreting water testing results, and provide assistance for understanding when mitigation strategies should be adopted
- Partner with Tennessee State University to find new methods for treating single trees to certify field-grown nursery plants and introduce new biological control agents to prevent damage caused by the imported fire ants
- Partner with the East Tennessee Regional Food Distribution Center at White Pine to support the installation of a pallet rack system in an existing cooler for Tennessee produce growers
- Partner with Heather Farms Nursery Inc to support a container pad to expand the production of exportable container trees to Canada and Europe and hold a field day in order to illustrate to local producers and distributors the benefits of the container pad

Texas Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$1,766,147.25

Number of Projects:

24

- Partner with Texas A&M University to develop a curriculum on food safety where producers, farm managers, packers, and shippers are trained in Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices and conduct workshops that qualify participants for a cost-share fund towards one audit fee by a certified third party company
- Partner with Texas A&M University to establish methods to enhance killing effectiveness of e-beam treatment in order to address the effectiveness of irradiation protocols in reducing contamination risk and improving consumer food safety of fresh leafy vegetables
- Provide cost-share/reimbursement to increase the number of producers that participate in an approved third party Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) audit
- Partner with the Sustainable Food Center to conduct an assessment of current and potential production capacities, customer interest and input, and best practices related to operations and marketing strategies for the Farm-To-Work program that increases sales of specialty crops for local farmers and improves access to local food for area worksites
- Partner with the Texas Watermelon Association to conduct in store demonstrations and increase both consumer awareness and sales of Texas watermelons
- Partner with TexaSweet to increase awareness and consumption of Texas Rio Star Grapefruit by conducting mass media outreach via television, a media tour, and a series of in-store sampling demonstrations
- Partner with Texas A&M University to conduct market analysis that assesses consumer acceptance and identify potential markets for fresh and processed pomegranate grown in Texas and compile current seasonal wholesale prices paid for whole pomegranate and pomegranate juice, annual sales and the major buyers including wholesalers, major grocery chains, and food processors in Texas

- Partner with the Pecan Board to promote and raise the awareness of the consumer health benefits of eating pecans by partnering with the Texas Co-op Power magazine to sponsor an annual Holiday Recipe Contest and redesign and upgrade the existing website
- Partner with the Texas Lavender Association to develop and implement educational programs to support lavender growers and potential lavender growers as well as increase awareness of the Texas lavender industry by providing additional conference topics and speakers, conduct bi-annual workshops, and develop marketing materials to promote the lavender industry
- Partner with the Turfgrass Producers of Texas to develop, publish, and make guidelines available to Texas consumers for the selection, installation, and maintenance of turfgrass and develop a weed control manual for turfgrass producers
- Partner with the Texas Certified Farmers' Market Corporation to solely promote public awareness of fresh fruits and vegetables sold at local member markets through the use of local and area media advertising
- Create informational and media events, which includes planning and conducting Market to Menu events to showcase fresh produce available at farmers markets for use in Texas restaurants; create informational literature on Texas Superstar plants, Earth-Kind® Roses and Texas herbs and produce availability listings; and combine media/advertising to increase consumer awareness and sales of Texas specialty crops
- Create educational events which includes the development of culinary workshops to train chefs on the use of fresh Texas produce; train producers and educate growers on marketing opportunities and in-store demonstrations to help educate consumers on how to use fresh produce in the kitchen; set up informational produce kiosks at State Fair to train school food service employees and seniors on purchasing and using local produce at farmers markets; and create children nutrition information to distribute during Fruit and Vegetable Month
- Partner with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture to engage in large-scale list building to improve coverage of specialty crop growers in the 2010 Census of Agriculture in Texas
- Partner with Texas Nursery & Landscape Association (TNLA), TNLA Education & Research Foundation, Water Smart Advisory Group and Texas Retailers Association to create and distribute a "Water Smart" resource management campaign to the Texas Green Industry
- Partner with the Texas State Florists' Association to increase sales of Texas floriculture products by preparing youth for careers in floriculture and expand the floral certification program in schools
- Partner with the Texas Produce Association to host a seminar to educate Texas growers and shippers of fresh produce about food safety, plant health, and marketing strategies
- Partner with the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association to assure that the best product possible goes from the grower to the consumer by educating all who are in the distribution cycle of good plant care, essential marketing techniques, and effective placements for the plant at the end-consumers destination
- Partner with the Texas Tech University, in conjunction with the Texas Olive Oil Council, to identify best management practices in irrigation/plant physiology, effect of temperature/humidity on bloom and fruit set, nutrient management, and weed control in orchards for olive production in Texas
- Partner with Texas A&M University to adopt an aggressive eradication effort in the Diaprepes find sites that combines the destruction of declining trees and the control of all development stages of the pest and conduct intensive surveys to allow for early detection of the pest in other areas of the Lower Rio Grande Valley
- Position Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) inspectors and contract personnel on alternative routes that vehicles use to avoid TDA's road station checkpoints in order to decrease the chances of introduction of a quarantined or an exotic pest
- Partner with Texas Citrus Mutual to assist in the reduction and eradication of the population of Diaprepes abbreviatus by installing ground cover in commercial and residential citrus groves.
- Partner with Texas AgriLife Extension Service to identify superior Pierce's Disease (PD) resistant varieties as well as those rootstocks which will complement PD resistant grapevines so that grape acreage in Texas can economically increase
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$163,169.73

Number of Projects:

2

- Further develop the local specialty crop industry through an increase in the marketing efforts of Virgin Fresh produce
- Develop a hands-on orchard fruit and leafy green demonstration models on the islands of St. John, St. Thomas, and St. Croix

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

Amount Awarded:

\$236,718.28

Number of Projects:

20

- Partner with Payson Fruit Growers to develop a marketing and sales plan for a specific region that would educate the consumer, introduce them to the benefits of Tart Cherry Concentrate, and establish distribution of the product for the Rocky Mountain Region of the United States
- Partner with the National Resources and Conservation Service to continue the development of a model for a specialty fruit crop industry in Emery County, Utah and focus efforts to increase the season for local fruits and vegetables
- Partner with the Wasatch Community Gardens to provide a hands-on agricultural education opportunity for low-income children through the preparation, nurture, and harvest of local garden beds
- Partner with the Blacksmith Fork Conservation District to collect basic information about Cache County, Utah grown Wolfberries, which will include species identification, genetic profiling, and a detailed analysis of nutrients found in locally produced berries
- Partner with Utah State University to devise alternative techniques that are functional but inexpensive to overcome problems plants experience when grown in harsh winter conditions
- Partner with Utah State University to continue current studies on evaluation of new caneberry (raspberry and blackberry) varieties for suitability to growing conditions in northern Utah, production of high yields and fruit quality, as well as evaluate relative cultivar susceptibility to the most important group of pests, the caneborer complex
- Partner with the Utah State Horticultural Association to establish an experimental tart cherry orchard to optimize a high density system, which will develop and test a prototype canopy-shake mechanical harvester, by adapting existing harvest technology used in berry crops
- Partner with the Utah State Horticultural Association to perform detailed fertility studies to determine phosphorus and potassium needs in tart cherry orchard trees in order to optimize the rate and formulation of fertilizer additions
- Partner with the Utah State University Cooperative Extension to collect identified indigenous plants and establish them in a nursery collection as an effort to conserve water and increase their commercial viability for the landscape industry
- Partner with Utah State Horticulture Association to document the benefits and/or consequences between different orchard floor management scenarios of cover crops and demonstrate the feasibility of organic and reduced input tree fruit production in Utah
- Partner with Brigham Young University to identify the total phenolics, total sugars, and total antioxidant capacity of six raspberry cultivars grown in a controlled environment in Salem, Utah with a comparison to raspberries purchased at a local grocery store
- Partner with Cornaby Farms to research and report on four methods of thinning, two methods of pruning, and two configurations of trellises for best yield and quality of fall raspberries when mechanically harvested
- Partner with the Utah Apple Marketing Board and the Utah State Horticulture Association to compare the detection levels of *Erwinia amylovora* bacteria, the causal agent of fire blight between the technologies, isothermal loop-mediated amplification (LAMP), real-time polymerase chain reaction, and the growth medium called CCT
- Partner with Utah State University to continue to research the effectiveness of mating disruption on a five-acre block of black currants in northern Utah for one season
- Partner with the Utah State Horticultural Association to offer a fire blight short-course taught by fire blight specialists from around the United States
- Partner with Utah State University to survey several northern Utah stone fruit orchards for three specific diseases: brown rot (*Monilinia fruticosa*), bacterial canker (*Pseudomonas syringae*), and cytospra canker (several *Cytospora* sp.)
- Partner with Utah State University to test and refine a fruit fly killing station that combines a yellow visual attractant and protection of GF-120 spray droplets from UV rays and rain in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of cherry fruit fly control

- Partner with Utah State University to evaluate two earwig trapping/monitoring methods, which include corrugated cardboard rolls and sticky trunk bands placed on peach trees in a commercial orchard, and compare the efficacy of several types of insecticides to reduce earwig injury to peach fruits
- Partner with the Cherry Marketing Institute to fund the development of new tart cherry products (primarily dried applications) designed to increase their use by food manufacturers or quick service restaurants in order to make the Utah tart cherry industry more competitive
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Vermont Agency of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$204,289.94	Number of Projects:	17
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- Continue to participate in good agricultural practices training programs and provide a stipend for Vermont growers to participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture good agricultural practices audit program
- Partner with the University of Vermont Extension, Center for Sustainable Agriculture to improve produce safety by determining the effectiveness of various procedures in reducing E. coli levels in leafy greens' was water and by assessing the level of E. coli contamination at which the studied treatments are no longer effective
- Partner with the Vermont Maple Foundation and the Vermont Maple Syrup Makers Association to conduct educational and training workshops for maple product producers and support the 44th annual Vermont Maple Festival in 2010 in order to market the Vermont's maple industry and its products
- Support the participation of Vermont Christmas tree industry organizations in industry related trade shows
- Partner with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont to test the feasibility of lightly processing Vermont fruits and vegetables to be utilized by schools and institutional markets
- Help regional organizations develop directories for connecting consumers with specialty crop producers interested in accessing a local market
- Assess specialty crop producer interest in different forms of marketing and basic messages needed to reach consumers
- Partner with the University of Vermont to improve education and training opportunities as well as develop a newsletter for members of the Vermont apple and wine/grape industries
- Partner with the Vermont Grape and Wine Council to provide technical assistance to the wine and grape industry through conferences, workshops, and other presentations on topics including marketing, product development, quality control, and product safety
- Partner with Food Works at Two Rivers Center to expand markets for Vermont produce growers through providing a unique distribution model that reaches new customer bases
- Partner with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont to develop a series of on-farm workshops for new and aspiring specialty crop producers and offer information concerning important specialty crop production and business-related practices
- Partner with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont to conduct on-farm workshops for experienced commercial organic vegetable producers on critical food safety topics in Vermont
- Partner with the Vermont Tree Fruit Growers Association to establish a research apple orchard in order to facilitate experimentation in the areas of integrated pest management and other pest control products, horticultural techniques, and variety evaluation for the benefit of Vermont's apple and wine industries
- Partner with the University of Vermont Cooperative Extension to identify and develop high quality hop varieties optimally adapted to low-input and organic production systems as well as provide educational opportunities for organic producers in Vermont
- Partner with the Vermont Tree Fruit Growers Association to establish new weather stations at selected Vermont orchards in order to provide more timely and accurate information on pest control and other orchard maintenance functions
- Partner with the Vermont Beekeepers Association to establish several local queen-rearing operations around Vermont to improve the retention of honeybee health and productivity
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Amount Awarded:

\$455,948.83

Number of Projects:

22

- Partner with the Southwest Virginia Agricultural Association to compare various methods of testing and monitoring water samples taken from fruit and vegetable production environments so that specialty crop producers can use the most accurate testing methods in their Good Agricultural Plan of Action
- Create and implement comprehensive management plans for the Virginia Farmers' Market System, which encompasses four shipping point farmers' markets, to focus on a Fresh Produce Audit Verification Program, Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) for the markets and growers that utilize those markets
- Partner with the Appalachian Sustainable Development and the Virginia Cooperative Extension to assist family farmers in meeting more stringent food safety guidelines by providing the supplies and technical assistance necessary to bridge the gap between Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification and the Harmonized Audit
- Partner with the Carroll County to make upgrade to the Southwest Virginia Farmers' Market to become Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) certified
- Partner with Association of Virginia Potato and Vegetable Growers to assist family farmers in meeting more stringent food safety requirements that are being required by wholesalers and retailer through providing financial assistance to growers to obtain Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification or transition from a GAP program to a Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) program
- Partner with the Northern Neck Vegetable Growers Association to assist family farmers in meeting more stringent food safety requirements that are being required by wholesalers and retailer through providing financial assistance to growers to obtain Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification or transition from a GAP program to a Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) program
- Design and develop promotional tools for increasing nutritional knowledge of strawberries and develop regional community awareness of locally grown strawberries thus increasing on farm sales and consumption of berries
- Partner with the Virginia Wineries Association to develop a Virginia Wine Quality Assurance Program to increase the quality of Virginia wines as well as increasing consumer and media perceptions of the quality of Virginia wines
- Partner with Virginia Tech to add a native plant category to the Beautiful Gardens® plant promotion program in order to expand the grower opportunities for production and profit, provide greater visibility and response to Beautiful Gardens®, and increase awareness and action on the part of consumers to help improve the environment, water quality, and animal habitats
- Partner with Lynchburg Grows to build programs that Lynchburg Grows offers producers engaged in the direct marketing of specialty crops to consumers, expand regional capacity of Virginia's farmer-to-consumer food system, and present a series of targeted regional workshops for new direct farm marketers on the benefits, challenges, and logistics of agricultural direct marketing of specialty crops
- Partner with the Northern Neck Vegetable Growers Association (NNVGA) to expand the knowledge base of the NNVGA membership and other growers of the region and state through locally held formal production meeting with speakers instructing growers and two field trips
- Partner with the Association of Virginia Potato and Vegetable Growers to host the Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference and Trade Show to bring together vegetable growers, scientists, and marketing specialists
- Shoot, edit, and produce a promotional video that highlights the variety, abundance, and competitive advantages of Virginia's fruit and vegetable crops
- Partner with Virginia Tech Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center to refine fresh market snap bean Nitrogen fertility programs in Virginia to increase farmer production and profit while simultaneously reducing nitrate concentrations deep in the soil profile
- Partner with Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Southwest Virginia Farmers' Market to conduct specialty crop variety evaluations, herbicide evaluations, population and spacing evaluations, fertility evaluations, and any other production component that needs attention
- Partner with Virginia State University to establish high tunnel production of raspberries as an alternative farm enterprise for some Virginia growers

- Partner with Virginia Tech to provide training resources for greenhouse installation and maintenance for the profitable production of locally grown vegetables under protected greenhouse culture
- Partner with Virginia Tech's Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center to support new specialty crop endeavors in Virginia by conducting variety evaluation and crop adaptability studies on carrots and tomatoes
- Partner with Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Southwest Virginia Farmers Market to conduct trials to determine the effectiveness of the Caliente 199 in controlling soil pathogens like Fusarium and Phytophthora as well as weeds in pumpkin production
- Partner with Virginia Tech to conduct field research on the efficacy of grafted tomato plants against soil-borne diseases, the effects of grafting on fruit yield and quality, and cost analysis
- Partner with Appalachian Sustainable Development to train farmers on different methods to raise organic specialty crops during the off season in heated greenhouses and develop and test market a new organic specialty crop product line
- Partner with Mt. Rogers Christmas Tree Growers Association to establish a new seed orchard thus preserving the history and native strain of trees once prevalent on Whitetop and Mount Rogers Mountain

Washington State Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$2,920,854.13	Number of Projects:	15
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- Partner with the Washington Apple Commission to train key retailers in at least six emerging markets (identified as Hong Kong and China, India, Mexico, Russia – Western, Thailand, and the Middle East - Dubai) in produce department layout design and produce handling, including follow-up display contests and evaluations
- Partner with Ecotrust and the Oregon Department of Agriculture to provide specialty crop producers a simple way to provide general information about their business and market themselves, their stories, and their products with FoodHub; provide food buyers a simple way to provide general information about what they typically buy (allowing specialty crop producers to do market research), access information about specialty crop producers, and order specialty crops based on specific requirements (e.g. certification, proximity, distribution model, and price); diversify and create new market opportunities for specialty crop producers by increasing the number and types of food buyers purchasing their products; and increase specialty crop producers' total volume or dollar value of sales. Ecotrust will ensure that Washington's specialty crop funds are isolated and applied only to activities benefitting specialty crop producers through the following tracking and accountability procedures: 1) analytical and reporting features of FoodHub software allowing registered users to be segmented by crop type bought or sold; 2) sophisticated organizational accounting practices which require the coding of all revenue and expenses; and 3) discrete work plans and activities specific to specialty crop promotion
- Partner with the Washington Wine Commission to host trade tastings, educational seminars, and "Washington Wine Month" By-the-Glass promotions in India and Mexico to increase demand for Washington State's wine
- Partner with the Northwest tree fruit groups, led by Pear Bureau Northwest, to conduct a series of in-store promotions and health-related consumer outreach events with the top two national retailer chains in Mexico: Wal-Mart and Soriana
- Partner with the Cascade Harvest Coalition to conduct Specialty Crop Farmer-Buyer Trade Meetings, which will connect local specialty crop producers with local retail and institutional buyers and educate both producers and buyers to communicate better. Cascade Harvest Coalition will use their registration process to ensure that only specialty crop producers benefit from the funding provided for the project
- Partner with Oregon Department of Agriculture to develop an online toolkit and conduct farm-to-school workshops for foodservice buyers and staff on how to purchase and prepare local fruits and vegetables, provide classroom resources to educate students about the benefits of eating fruits and vegetables, conduct grower trainings to assist specialty crop producers in selling to institutional markets, develop resources and hold events to help farmers to understand and prepare for Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) food safety certification as required by many schools and foodservice companies, and survey farmers and processor to inventory the current capacity for post-harvest processing required to meet the school foodservice market

- Partner with the Washington State Horticultural Association to implement Growers Response to Agriculture, Safe, and Sustainable Practices (GRAS2P) by: providing Washington tree fruit growers with educational opportunities to increase their knowledge of and improve their sustainable practices in the areas of soil and water management; assisting a minimum of 350 farms to be prepared for third-party food safety audits; identifying/modifying a grower-friendly database system facilitating organization and storage of on-farm documentation regarding safe and sustainable practices used in the orchard; developing bilingual, multimedia educational materials to support both hands-on grower education and to communicate to consumers the responsible and sustainable practices applied within the tree fruit industry; and extending the hard copy version of GRAS2P workbook and materials to a web-based version usable via computer and/or PDA
- Partner with Washington State University to test and refine organic herbicide and mulch systems for orchard floor management to improve economics and environmental impact relative to tillage. All three systems will be assessed by measuring improvements in tree performance; comparing changes in soil organic matter; evaluating standard fruit quality measures and nutritional quality; building an economic model to determine the most profitable system; and codify for stakeholders the tips, barriers and pitfalls of implementing the best system
- Partner with Washington State University to characterize stem number and tuber set relationships and identify target stem numbers and associated handling and storage protocols to optimize tuber size distribution and maximize value for specialty potato cultivars
- Partner with Washington State University to improve real-time pest management decision-making through communication of research-based knowledge of apple integrated pest management (IPM). Surveys will provide data to document changes in perspectives and practices of growers, IPM consultants, and farm workers
- Partner with Washington State University to provide Washington's entire cut flower industry with a synoptic list of the most effective arthropod management techniques for both conventional and organic production as well as a valuation-modeling tool to predict production cost and estimate future pricing for the cut flower industry
- Partner with Washington State University to measure the effects of two currently-registered herbicides for cane burning in four red raspberry cultivars and to gather data on the effectiveness of the products for managing primocanes, including the percent of initial control, height and diameter over the summer, and final primocane count at the end of the season and re-growth over time; injury to floricanes, including visual symptoms and berry yield; and weed control
- Partner with Washington State University to develop and implement a green manure system that suppresses soilborne pests in potatoes, reduces/eliminates reliance on soil fumigation, and enhances the competitiveness of farmers by reducing their production costs. Specific objectives are to: 1) determine the properties of green manures critical to suppressing *Verticillium dahliae*; 2) determine the primary mechanism(s) of the suppression; and 3) train farmers to use green manures effectively
- Partner with Washington State University to educate backyard fruit growers about codling moth and western cherry fruit fly and how they affect commercial orchards by demonstrating viable low risk methods for homeowners to control these pests that infest backyard fruit trees and evaluate the impact proper management of backyard fruit trees has on the spread of these pests to adjacent commercial orchards
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:	\$184,663.10	Number of Projects:	18
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- Address the training and certification requirements for specialty crop producers in good agricultural practices and good handling practices through the sponsorship, cost-share, and facilitation of good manufacturing/good handling practices program overviews and a better process control school
- Create a marketplace, demand and buying opportunity to consumers in the metropolitan Charlotte, North Carolina area through a specialty crop promotion at the 2009 Southern Christmas Show
- Provide media support for the activities of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and the West Virginia Specialty Crop industry
- Explore electronic, social media, and interactive marketing techniques in order to promote and encourage the increased consumption of West Virginia specialty crops through the West Virginia Grown logo program

- Partner with the Potomac Headwaters Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Region, Inc. to complete an inventory of the type, amount, and availability of existing specialty crops and growers in Morgan County and analyze the data in order to ascertain barriers that impede further expansion by existing growers, obstruct the entry of new producers, and hamper increased consumption of locally produced products
- Assist five West Virginia companies the opportunity to participate and showcase their West Virginia Grown gourmet value added specialty crop foods and develop business relationships at the Kentucky Crafted Marketplace
- Develop and print the West Virginia Tourism Travel Guide that will highlight the specialty crops available at two year round farmers markets (Inwood & Logan) and feature the culinary tourism product available through farm visits, restaurant partnerships and specialty crop attractions
- Partner with the Tamarack Foundation to provide an opportunity for West Virginia specialty crop producers to be the first specialty crop producers to exhibit and sell specialty crops at the "Buyers Market of American Craft Show" in Philadelphia
- Provide support for the 2011 International Master Gardeners Conference by provide signage, sampling materials and informational displays featuring value added specialty crop products from at least 25 West Virginia specialty crop producers at the West Virginia Country Store
- Partner with the West Virginia State University Research and Development Corporation to facilitate workshops and offer educational opportunities in order to increase the number of blackberry producers in West Virginia
- Partner with the West Virginia University Research Corporation to increase the skills of new and existing specialty crop growers through a variety of training opportunities and educational workshops, which will ultimately expand the supply and diversity of local produce
- Partner with the West Virginia State University Research and Development Corporation to educate the general public on production and growth of fruit crops through delivery of crop specific workshops and the development of hands-on learning environments
- Partner with the Fayette County Schools to plant a production oriented potato patch and raised vegetable gardens at Gatewood and Rosedale elementary schools in Fayetteville and Oak Hill to educate children about gardening fruits and vegetables and instruct them about the nutritional benefits of locally grown specialty crops
- Partner with the Cabell Wayne Beekeeper Association to develop an exhibit at the Heritage Farm Museum that provides a history of beekeeping in West Virginia as well as offer educational tours and the observation of beekeepers extracting and bottling honey
- Partner with the West Virginia State University Research and Development Corporation to investigate the benefits of kenaf as a replacement for coir in a hydroponic substrate in order to find out the feasibility of utilizing a completely biodegradable and renewable hydroponic substrate
- Partner with the West Virginia State University Research and Development Corporation to develop an alternative solution to "off-the-shelf" high tunnels that can be constructed with locally available materials for small grower/producers of specialty crops
- Divide the West Virginia apiary associations into eight geographic regions in order to effectively provide extraction equipment on a share basis to allow small honey producers the opportunity to expand their operation and increasingly provide their honey to commercial entities
- Perform pre-award and post-award activities in order to administrate the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Amount Awarded:	\$745,360.82	Number of Projects:	20
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- Facilitate informational sessions and distribute information materials to specialty crop producers regarding food safety issues and the importance of having a food safety plan as well as help offset producer costs of maintaining food safety plans through a cost-share program especially as it relates to specialty crop commodities
- Develop a workgroup that will include industry representatives from organizations as well as produce growers, regulators, Extension faculty and Extension agents who conduct local-foods educational programs and scientific experts to prepare and disseminate a set of guidelines that owners of retail food establishments and restaurants can use for assessing the safety of locally-grown produce

- Partner with the Wisconsin Apple Growers Association, the Wisconsin Berry Growers Association, the Wisconsin Fresh Market Vegetable Growers Association, and the Wisconsin Agricultural Tourism Association to increase consumer awareness of Wisconsin's apple, vegetable, and berry industry through a multi-faceted program reaching into schools, homes, and getaways
- Partner with Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association to promote energy conservation and assess the feasibility of using renewable energy on cranberry marshes in Wisconsin
- Partner with the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association to conduct an advertising campaign to increase consumer awareness and demand of Wisconsin Home Grown and Healthy Grown potatoes
- Partner with the Wisconsin Growers Association, Thrive, and the University of Wisconsin to enhance and update the Grocers Buy Local website to focus on apples, tomatoes and potatoes and include wholesale supplier/distributors, which will assist farmers and growers in expanding their ability to reach these supply chain contacts
- Optimize the SavorWisconsin.com website search engine for specialty crop producers, which will improve the quality and quantity of Wisconsin specialty crop producers listed. Additionally, articles featuring Wisconsin's specialty crops will be published to drive traffic on the website
- Partner with the Consumer Education Committee of Wisconsin Organic Advisory Council to develop educational and marketing materials for specialty crop producers and an organic specialty crop farmer directory to be used by growers, farmers' markets, farm stands, and community-supported agriculture (CSA), and food retailers for their organic food customers
- Partner with REAP Food Group's Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch to expand the school snack program to meet the local demand, which will strengthen purchasing relationships between schools and local produce farms and demonstrate the viability of processing local produce as a business on a larger scale
- Continue to bridge the connection between education and farming for underserved specialty crop producers who indicate a strong desire to improve their farming methods and to farm more sustainably
- Partner with the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension to assist growers in the development of commercially viable hazelnut cultivars by creating an on-farm, grower-driven plant evaluation and breeding program
- Partner with the Wisconsin Grape Growers Association to promote the qualities and varieties of Wisconsin grapes and continue to research table grape varieties in order to ascertain a seedless grape appropriate for the cold Wisconsin climate
- Partner with the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension to design and demonstrate a pea harvester-head prototype and identify the optimal commercial pea varieties with vine and canopy architecture compatible with the pea head prototype
- Partner with the University of Wisconsin at Madison to enhance the present understanding of the epidemiology and overwintering biology of the aster yellows phytoplasma (Ayp) with a focus on factors that influence its geographical distribution and spread in Wisconsin muck crops grown in the upper Midwest
- Expand a project concerning the detection and delimitation of Corky Ringspot Disease to allow for additional potato grower participation, including producers of non-seed tablestock potatoes that are located in major potato growing areas of the state that were not previously surveyed
- Conduct detection surveys for a specific set of pests and diseases of vegetable crops not known to be widespread in Wisconsin and, if present, determine the distribution of those insects and pathogens in the state
- Partner with the University of Wisconsin at Madison to develop tools for use by industry that will identify the onset of pathogenic rot in order to allow storage managers to make informed decisions about potato crops before substantial economic losses are incurred
- Partner with the University of Wisconsin at Madison to improve the sustainability of the Wisconsin potato industry through improved integrated management systems and raw product quality of newly harvested and stored potatoes
- Partner with the University of Wisconsin at Madison to develop pest-resistant and highly ornamental white-barked birches and viburnums through the use of interspecific hybridization
- Hire a part-time grants specialist to maintain primary responsibility for the timely review and oversight of the individual Wisconsin Specialty Crop Block Grant Program grant awards

Wyoming Department of Agriculture

Amount Awarded:

\$180,691.96

Number of Projects:

7

- Partner with Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, University of Wyoming, and Wyoming Business Council to identify, expand, and promote opportunities for Wyoming producers that will enable them to market their products via an online marketing network
- Partner with University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service to increase consumer knowledge regarding benefits and availability of specialty crops by providing a local food guide, local food expos, and a training module for educators to promote specialty crops produced in their communities. Additional sources of funding will be used to fund the 25 percent of the local food guide's content and travel and supply expenses that pertain to non-specialty crops
- Create five webisodes with two geared to consumers to raise their awareness of locally grown specialty crops, one webisode showcasing the farmers' markets as they relate to specialty crops and producers, and two training webisodes to help producers develop increased production, season extension, and quality of specialty crop products
- Partner with University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service to conduct high tunnel workshops to include construction of high tunnels throughout the state
- Partner with University of Wyoming Research and Extension to plant fenugreek, an herb and a spice, to determine if it can be grown to maturity in two varying Wyoming environments
- Provide financial assistance to producers and agriculture organizations for specialty crop season extension activities, such as high tunnel construction, irrigation methods, other methods that increase the specialty crop season and the development of native seed production
- Support a position within Wyoming Department of Agriculture where 36 percent of their time will be devoted to provide information, promotional assistance and technical assistance to specialty crop growers. In addition the person will monitor the subgrantees through site audits, develop specialty crop promotional material, and coordinate state wide marketing efforts